



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
PAY-AS-YOU-GO ESTIMATE**

December 3, 1999

**H.R. 3456
Digital Theft Deterrence and Copyright Damages
Improvement Act of 1999**

As cleared by the Congress on November 19, 1999

Under the No Electronic Theft Act (Public Law 105-147), the United States Sentencing Commission establishes sentencing guidelines for cases of copyright infringement. H.R. 3456 would authorize the commission to establish temporary penalty guidelines for copyright infringement. If the commission elects to increase criminal fines for copyright infringement, annual collections from such fines would rise. Because H.R. 3456 could affect direct spending and receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply.

CBO estimates that any increase in annual collections from these fines would be negligible. Collections of such fines are recorded in the budget as governmental receipts, which are deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and spent in subsequent years.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Hadley. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.