



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

October 3, 2000

S. 3144

**A bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.)
to establish police powers for certain inspector general agents
engaged in official duties and provide an oversight mechanism
for the exercise of those powers**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs
on September 27, 2000*

The bill would amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to authorize investigative agents in offices of federal inspectors general to exercise certain law enforcement powers, such as carrying a firearm and seeking and executing warrants for arrests. Investigative agents have exercised such powers since the mid-1980s through the granting of special deputy status by the U.S. Marshals Service. The legislation would codify those powers and remove the responsibility for authorizing and overseeing the use of such powers from the Marshals Service. Under the bill, the individual inspector general (IG) offices would be responsible for supervising and controlling the day-to-day use of the law enforcement powers, with the Attorney General providing additional oversight. In addition, the bill would require IG offices to enter into an interagency memorandum of understanding to establish a process to periodically peer review the exercise of the law enforcement powers by each office.

Because the bill would codify powers already exercised by IG offices, and replace one system of review and oversight with another, CBO estimates that implementing it would have no significant effect on federal costs. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts, so pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is John R. Righter. The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.