



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

October 20, 2000

H.R. 1654

National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2000

As cleared by the Congress on October 13, 2000

H.R. 1654 would authorize appropriations for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for fiscal years 2000 through 2002 and revise federal policies related to various space programs. CBO expects that certain provisions in this act could affect direct spending and receipts, but we estimate that any such effects would not be significant.

For example, provisions prohibiting obtrusive space advertising could result in the collection of additional civil penalties. CBO estimates that the effect on governmental receipts would be negligible, however, because the Department of Transportation has never collected a penalty for a violation of the licensing and related requirements of the commercial space transportation program.

The act also establishes an expiration date for NASA's authority to insure or indemnify developers of experimental reusable launch vehicles. This program, which currently extends indefinitely, could affect direct spending because claims not covered by private insurance or appropriated funds could be paid from the Judgment Fund. CBO expects that the likelihood of any direct spending for such claims is small; hence, we estimate that limiting the duration of the authority would have no significant budgetary effect.

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