



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

November 5, 2001

H.R. 2976

Healing Opportunities in Parks and the Environment Pass Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on October 3, 2001

H.R. 2976 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue to persons directly affected by the events of September 11, 2001, a lifetime pass for admission to federal recreational lands such as national parks. Those eligible for the free passes include individuals present at the four crash sites, the immediate families of those killed in the incidents, and all police, fire, and related personnel who were directly involved in the aftermath of the crashes. The legislation would affect direct spending; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. CBO estimates that the net changes would be insignificant for each year.

H.R. 2976 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.

Providing people with free lifetime passes to federal recreation areas would reduce the total amount of recreation fees collected by land management agencies each year. Based on information provided by the National Park Service, CBO estimates that the loss of offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending) would be less than \$500,000 a year beginning in fiscal year 2002. The loss would be offset entirely in fiscal year 2002 by a like reduction in direct spending because, under existing law, fee-collecting agencies are allowed to spend recreation receipts earned that year without further appropriation action. For each of the following years, the receipt loss also would be offset but by a much smaller amount—15 percent, which is the amount that agencies are allowed to retain and use for fee collections.

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