



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 7, 2002

### **H.R. 4558**

#### **An act to extend the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program**

*As reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on August 1, 2002*

#### **SUMMARY**

The Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-319) provides nonimmigrant visas for young adults from certain areas of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Those individuals work or study in the United States for up to three years. This program is currently scheduled to terminate on October 1, 2005. H.R. 4558 would extend it until October 1, 2006.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4558 would cost about \$4 million in fiscal year 2006 for the Department of State to administer this program, subject to the availability of appropriations. Enacting the legislation also would affect direct spending and receipts, but CBO estimates that any such effects would not be significant. Because the act would affect direct spending and receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply.

H.R. 4558 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 4558 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 150 (international affairs) and 750 (administration of justice).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Spending Under Current Law						
Estimated Authorization Level <sup>a</sup>	4	4	4	4	0	0
Estimated Outlays	4	4	4	4	0	0
Proposed Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	0	0	0	4	0
Estimated Outlays	0	0	0	0	4	0
Spending Under H.R. 4558						
Estimated Authorization Level	4	4	4	4	4	0
Estimated Outlays	4	4	4	4	4	0

a. The 2002 level is the amount appropriated for that year for the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program. The estimated authorization levels for 2003 through 2005 are CBO baseline estimates.

Since the program's inception, there have been about 250 participants each year. Thus, CBO estimates that any effects on fees collected by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) or the State Department as a result of extending the program would be insignificant. INS fees are classified as offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending), and the State Department fees are classified as governmental receipts (i.e., revenues).

### **PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS**

The Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act specifies pay-as-you-go procedures for legislation affecting direct spending and receipts. Those procedures would apply to H.R. 4558 because it would affect both direct spending and receipts, but CBO estimates that the annual amount of such changes would not be significant.

### **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 4558 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

## **PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE**

On July 22, 2002, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 4558 as ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on July 17, 2002. The two versions of the legislation are identical, as are our cost estimates.

## **ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

Federal Costs: Mark Grabowicz

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Angela Seitz

Impact on the Private Sector: Paige Piper/Bach

## **ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:**

Peter H. Fontaine

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis