



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 8, 2003

H.R. 2655

A bill to amend and extend the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on July 25, 2003

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. These individuals work or study in the United States for up to three years. This program is currently scheduled to terminate on October 1, 2006. H.R. 2655 would make several administrative changes to the program and would extend it until October 1, 2008.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2655 would cost about \$4 million in each of fiscal years 2007 and 2008 for the Department of State to administer this program, subject to the availability of appropriations. Enacting the bill also would affect direct spending, but CBO estimates that any such effects would not be significant.

H.R. 2655 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. 2655 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 750 (administration of justice).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Spending Under Current Law						
Estimated Authorization Level ^a	3	4	4	4	0	0
Estimated Outlays	3	4	4	4	0	0
Proposed Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	0	0	0	4	4
Estimated Outlays	0	0	0	0	4	4
Spending Under H.R. 2655						
Estimated Authorization Level	3	4	4	4	4	4
Estimated Outlays	3	4	4	4	4	4

a. The 2003 level (about \$3.4 million) is the amount appropriated for that year for the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program. The estimated authorization levels for 2004 through 2006 are CBO baseline estimates.

Since the program's inception, there have been about 300 participants each year. Thus, CBO estimates that the increase in the amount of application fees collected and spent by the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services and the State Department as a result of extending the program would be insignificant.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 2655 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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