



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

May 29, 1998

**S. 1525
Public Safety Officers Educational Assistance Act of 1998**

As passed by the Senate on May 15, 1998

SUMMARY

Under current law, children and spouses of federal law enforcement officers killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty are eligible to receive financial assistance for higher education. S. 1525 would provide this assistance to the dependents of all public safety officers killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty since October 1, 1997. We estimate that implementing the act would cost almost \$4 million over the fiscal years 1998 through 2003, from a combination of existing funds and new appropriations. Enacting S. 1525 would affect direct spending, so pay-as-you-go procedures would apply.

S. 1525 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would have no impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1525 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					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003

CHANGES IN DIRECT SPENDING

Use of Existing Funds						
Budget Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	a	a	1	1	0	0

CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION

Need for Additional Funding						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	0	0	a	1	1
Estimated Outlays	0	0	0	a	1	1

a. .Less than \$500,000.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

In recent years, an average of about 220 nonfederal public safety officers annually have been killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty. For the purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that similar numbers will be killed or disabled in each of the next several years. We also assume that the proportion of their dependents who would accept educational assistance is the same as that for federal law enforcement officers (whose dependents are currently eligible for educational assistance). In fiscal year 1999, CBO estimates that about 35 additional individuals would receive assistance of about \$4,800 each (in 1998 dollars). We anticipate that the number of individuals receiving assistance would grow to about 200 by 2003. As a result, CBO estimates that the cost of implementing S. 1525 would be roughly \$100,000 in fiscal year 1998, and would grow to more than \$1 million annually by fiscal year 2003. The cost would continue to increase for about 15 years, reaching about \$3 million annually in 2012.

For fiscal year 1998, \$2 million was appropriated for educational assistance to dependents of federal law enforcement officers, and we estimate that only about \$300,000 of those funds will be spent over the 1998-2003 period under current law. CBO expects that the balance of the appropriation, about \$1.7 million, would be used to pay the costs of implementing S. 1525 over the next four years, and that these funds would be spent by the end of fiscal year 2001. Those outlays would not occur under current law until after 2003. The shift in use of

existing funds—from years after 2003 to the 1998-2001 period—is a direct spending change because it is not subject to any further appropriation action.

After the estimated balance of \$1.7 million from existing funds is used, the cost of implementing S. 1525 in late 2001 and subsequent years would have to be covered by additional appropriations. We estimate that the authorization of new appropriations would be about \$1 million in each of fiscal years 2002 and 2003 (plus an additional amount of less than \$500,000 for 2001).

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS

Section 252 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act sets up pay-as-you-go procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or receipts. The estimated changes in direct spending for enacting S. 1525 are shown in the following table. For the purposes of enforcing pay-as-you-go procedures, only the effects in the current year, the budget year, and the succeeding four years are counted. Enacting S. 1525 would shift outlays that would have occurred after fiscal year 2003 to the 1998-2001 period, resulting in additional outlays in 1998-2001 and small annual savings for several years after 2003. The estimated changes are less than \$500,000 a year for all years except 2000 and 2001.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars										
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Changes in outlays	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Changes in receipts	Not applicable										

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 1525 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would have no impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments. By providing educational assistance to dependents of public safety officers, the bill would aid families of state and local law enforcement officers, firefighters, and rescue workers.

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