



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

June 9, 2005

H.R. 2745
Henry J. Hyde United Nations Reform Act of 2005

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on International Relations
on June 8, 2005*

H.R. 2745 would require the Secretary of State to press for many changes at the United Nations. The bill also would require the Secretary to withhold 50 percent of the U.S. assessed contributions to the regular budget of the United Nations, starting in 2007, if the Secretary is unable to certify that certain conditions have been met. The bill would not authorize appropriations for assessed contributions to the United Nations' budget. In 2005, CBO estimates that \$362 million will be spent on such assessments from current appropriations; for 2006, the President has requested that Congress appropriate \$439 million for those costs.

CBO has no basis for predicting whether or when all the necessary certifications would be made. If the Secretary is able to make all certifications in a timely manner, assessments would not be withheld, and implementation of the bill would have no impact on spending subject to appropriation. Alternatively, if certifications cannot be made and 50 percent of assessments are withheld, such discretionary spending would be about \$187 million lower in 2007 and about \$769 million lower over the 2007-2010 period—relative to expected scheduled payments under the current-law baseline. The bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

Among the many changes specified by the bill, it would require the Secretary of State to press the United Nations to:

- Reduce and streamline its regular budget,
- Increase internal oversight and auditing,
- Establish a position of Chief Operating Officer,
- Create an Office of Ethics,
- Prohibit membership in any United Nations human rights body to countries that violate human rights,

- Adopt a uniform and enforceable code of conduct for United Nations peacekeepers, and
- Strengthen the compliance and enforcement capabilities at the International Atomic Energy Agency.

H.R. 2745 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.

The CBO staff contact is Sunita D'Monte. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.