



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

June 20, 2006

**H.R. 4809
Regulation in Plain Language Act of 2006**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Government Reform on June 8, 2006

H.R. 4809 would amend the Paperwork Reduction Act to require all federal agencies to ensure that regulations are written in plain language—clear and readily understandable to the intended reader. The legislation also would require each agency to designate a coordinator for its efforts to use plain language, establish a process to review compliance, publish guidelines on the use of plain language, require training for federal employees to use plain language, and provide regular reports on compliance.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4809 would cost less than \$500,000 a year, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Most provisions of the bill would codify and expand current practices of the federal government. Executive Order 12866 and the Presidential Memorandum on Plain Language (June 1, 1998) currently require government agencies to write regulations in language that is comprehensible to readers. Based on information from the Office of Management and Budget, CBO estimates that implementing this bill would not significantly increase the cost of preparing rulemaking documents.

H.R. 4809 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no effect on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

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