



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

August 24, 2007

**H.R. 1717**

**A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002  
to establish a National Bio- and Agro-defense Facility**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Homeland Security on August 1, 2007*

H.R. 1717 would formally establish a National Bio- and Agro-defense Facility in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The department would use this facility—as planned under current law—to conduct research on biological and agricultural threats against the United States, including diseases affecting livestock.

DHS is currently selecting a site for this facility and anticipates beginning construction in 2010, with operations commencing by the end of 2013. CBO expects that implementing H.R. 1717 would not significantly affect the department's plans or spending for this facility. Based on preliminary information from the department, CBO expects that it will cost roughly \$600 million to build and equip the new facility; subsequently, operating costs will be about \$40 million per year. The bill would authorize the department to accept in-kind donations of real property or services to support the planned facility. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 1717 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no direct costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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