



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

April 8, 2008

**H.R. 281**

**Universal Right to Vote by Mail Act of 2007**

*As ordered reported by the Committee on House Administration on April 2, 2008*

H.R. 281 would amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require states, beginning in 2010, to allow eligible voters to request a mail-in ballot for all federal elections without having to provide a reason. States would also be required to verify the signature on the absentee ballot by cross-checking it with the voter's signature on the official list of registered voters. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 281 would have no impact on the federal budget.

Section 4 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act excludes from the application of that act any legislative provisions that enforce the constitutional rights of individuals. CBO has determined that H.R. 281 would fall within that exclusion because it would protect individuals' voting rights. Therefore, we have not reviewed the bill for mandates.

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