



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

September 16, 2008

**S. 1070
Elder Justice Act of 2008**

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Finance on September 10, 2008

SUMMARY

S. 1070 would amend title XX of the Social Security Act by creating a new subtitle for “Elder Justice.” The bill would authorize funding over the 2009-2013 period for several programs aimed at providing legal protection and services to elderly individuals.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$659 million over the 2009-2013 period. In addition, CBO estimates that the civil monetary penalties authorized by the bill would have a negligible effect on revenues. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending.

S. 1070 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1070 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 500 (education, employment, training, and social services).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2009-
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2013
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION ^a						
National Coordination of Elder Justice						
Activities and Research						
Authorization Level	11	13	15	15	0	54
Estimated Outlays	6	12	14	15	7	54
Programs to Promote Elder Justice						
Estimated Authorization Level	181	169	169	169	0	688
Estimated Outlays	20	106	156	172	151	605
Total Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	192	182	184	184	0	742
Estimated Outlays	26	118	170	187	158	659

a. Enacting the bill would create new civil monetary penalties that CBO estimates would have a negligible effect on revenues.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted near the start of fiscal year 2009, that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each year beginning in 2009, and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns of similar programs.

Spending Subject to Appropriation

In total, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1070 would cost \$659 million over the 2009-2013 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

National Coordination of Elder Justice Activities and Research. Section 5 would authorize the appropriation of specific sums for each year through 2012 to establish an Elder Justice Coordinating Council and an advisory board on the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of the elderly. In addition, the section would authorize the appropriation of specific amounts to establish stationary and mobile centers for the provision of forensic services relating to the abuse and neglect of the elderly. CBO estimates that implementing those provisions would cost \$54 million over the 2009-2013 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts.

Programs to Promote Elder Justice. In addition, section 5 would authorize appropriations totaling \$687 million over the 2009-2012 period for grant programs designed to promote elder justice. Grants would be provided to long-term care facilities, state and local governments, and other eligible entities with relevant expertise and experience in elder abuse and neglect to improve their capacity to serve elderly individuals and provide adult protective services in cases of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of the elderly. It also would authorize the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary for a study on establishing a national nurse-aid registry. CBO estimates that implementing those provisions would cost \$605 million over the 2009-2013 period, including about \$1 million for the required study, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts.

Revenues

Enacting S. 1070 could increase revenues through the creation of several new civil penalties for violations relating to nonreporting of crimes against residents in long-term care facilities. Collections of such penalties are recorded as revenues and deposited in the Treasury. CBO expects that any increase in revenues related to the new penalties would be negligible.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 1070 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. State, local, and tribal governments would benefit from grants authorized in the bill that support training, prevention, and intervention programs tied to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Any costs those governments incur to comply with grant conditions would be incurred voluntarily.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Jessica Sherry

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Lisa Ramirez-Branum

Impact on the Private Sector: Patrick Bernhardt

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Peter H. Fontaine

Assistant Director for Budget Analysis