



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

February 9, 2011

H.R. 519 **United Nations Tax Equalization Refund Act of 2011**

As introduced on February 8, 2011

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 519 would have no effect on the federal budget. Enacting H.R. 519 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. The bill would establish a new policy to direct the United Nations (U.N.) to return \$179 million that the United States overpaid to the U.N. as well as any similar over-payments in future years. Under the bill, if the Secretary of State is unable to certify that the U.N. has returned \$179 million, the State Department would be required to withhold the same amount from its assessed contributions to the U.N. Those contributions are funded through annual appropriations acts.

Based on information from the Administration, CBO expects that the State Department would not seek the return of those funds and that the Secretary would thus be unable to make the necessary certification. CBO estimates that amounts appropriated in 2011 for assessed contributions to the U.N. will be obligated and expended before this bill would be enacted; therefore, there would be no funds available this year to withhold pursuant to the bill's requirement. Under current law, there are no appropriations authorized or provided for 2012 or future years for assessed contributions to the U.N.; therefore, CBO also would not attribute savings to H.R. 519 in future years. Thus, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would have no effect on the federal budget. If future appropriations are reduced by \$179 million, CBO estimates that discretionary outlays would be reduced by a corresponding amount.

H.R. 519 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Sunita D'Monte. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.