



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

May 12, 2005

**H.R. 869**

**A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to lift  
the patient limitation on prescribing drug addiction treatments  
by medical practitioners in group practices, and for other purposes**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on May 4, 2005*

H.R. 869 would allow medical group practices to prescribe and dispense narcotic drugs in schedules III, IV, or V (the drugs rated the lowest risk for abuse) for drug addiction treatment to more than 30 patients at a time without first registering with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The bill would prohibit individual practitioners within such groups from treating more than 30 patients at a time. Individual practitioners and group practices that treat fewer than 30 patients are already exempt from the requirement to register with DEA.

CBO estimates that this bill would have no significant budgetary effect. Enacting the bill could affect direct spending, but any such effects would likely be negligible. H.R. 869 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 Eric Rollins. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.