



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

November 2, 2005

**S. 443  
Antitrust Criminal Investigative Improvements Act of 2005**

*As passed by the Senate on October 25, 2005*

CBO estimates that implementing S. 443 would result no significant cost to the federal government. Enacting S. 443 could affect direct spending and revenues, but CBO estimates that any such effects would not be significant.

S. 443 would add certain violations of U.S antitrust law to the list of offenses for which wiretaps and other interceptions of communications can be authorized. Implementing the act could result in more successful investigations and prosecutions in cases involving illegal restraint of trade or illegal monopolies. CBO expects that any increase in costs for law enforcement, court proceedings, or prison operations would not be significant because of the small number of cases likely to be affected. Any such additional costs would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Because those prosecuted and convicted under S. 443 could be subject to criminal fines, the federal government might collect additional fines if the act is enacted. Collections of such fines are recorded in the budget as revenues, which are deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and later spent. CBO expects that any additional revenues and direct spending under S. 443 would be negligible because of the small number of cases involved.

S. 443 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

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