



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

February 15, 2007

H.R. 740 **Preventing Harassment through Outbound Number** **Enforcement (PHONE) Act of 2007**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on February 7, 2007

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 740 would have no significant cost to the federal government. Enacting the bill could affect direct spending and revenues, but CBO estimates that any such effects would not be significant. H.R. 740 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 740 would establish a new federal crime for the fraudulent use of caller ID information. Because the bill would establish a new offense, the government would be able to pursue cases that it otherwise would not be able to prosecute. CBO expects that H.R. 740 would apply to a relatively small number of offenders, however, so any increase in costs for law enforcement, court proceedings, or prison operations would not be significant. Any such costs would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Because those prosecuted and convicted under H.R. 740 could be subject to criminal fines, the federal government might collect additional fines if the legislation is enacted. Criminal fines are recorded as revenues, then deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and later spent. CBO expects that any additional revenues and direct spending would not be significant because of the small number of cases likely to be affected.

Persons prosecuted and convicted under the bill also could be subject to the seizure of certain assets by the federal government. Proceeds from the sale of such assets would be deposited into the Assets Forfeiture Fund and spent from that fund, mostly in the same year. Thus, enacting H.R. 740 could increase both revenues deposited into the fund and direct spending from the fund. However, CBO estimates that any increased revenues or spending would be negligible.

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