



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

November 1, 2007

**H.R. 2128
Sunshine in the Courtroom Act of 2007**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on October 24, 2007

H.R. 2128 would authorize federal district and appellate judges to permit the photographing, recording, broadcasting, and televising of court proceedings if such activities would not violate the due process rights of the parties involved. The authority provided to district court judges under H.R. 2128 would expire three years after the date of enactment. The bill also would authorize the Judicial Conference of the United States to promulgate advisory guidelines regarding the use of the particular media devices specified in the bill.

The federal court system currently prohibits the use of still cameras, television cameras, and other electronic recording devices in federal courtrooms. Information from the Administrative Office of the United States Courts indicates that implementing the bill could necessitate equipping a small number of courtrooms with media devices; however, CBO estimates that any resulting increase in federal spending would total less than \$500,000 a year, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting H.R. 2128 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 2128 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.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Leigh Angres. This estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.