



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

January 28, 2007

### **S. 1000**

#### **Telework Enhancement Act of 2007**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security  
and Governmental Affairs on November 14, 2007*

S. 1000 would require the executive and legislative branches of the federal government to establish policies to determine which federal employees are eligible to participate in federal telework programs (programs that enable employees to work part time from places other than their official duty station for one day per 40-hour workweek). In addition, S. 1000 would reauthorize a travel expenses test program for an additional nine years.

CBO estimates that implementing S. 1000 would increase administrative costs across federal agencies by \$5 million in 2008 and much smaller amounts in subsequent years for executive and legislative agencies to notify employees of their eligibility to participate in telework programs and to satisfy the reporting requirements specified in the bill. S. 1000 could also affect direct spending, but CBO estimates that any amounts would not be significant in any year. Enacting the bill would not affect revenues.

Under current law, executive branch agencies are required to establish policies for employees to participate in telework programs to the maximum extent possible without diminishing employees' performance. The General Services Administration (GSA) and the Office of Personnel Management provide guidance and resources to federal agencies to support telework policies governmentwide. (Although not required, some legislative branch agencies currently offer some telework programs that are similar to those of the executive branch.) This bill would require agencies to establish and implement policies to enable eligible employees to participate in telework programs, adding to annual administrative costs.

For most agencies, any such impact on spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds; however, the bill could affect direct spending by agencies not funded through annual appropriations, such as the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Bonneville Power Administration. CBO estimates, however, that any increase in spending for telework programs by those agencies would not be significant.

By reauthorizing the travel expenses test program, the bill also would allow agencies with the approval of GSA to test new and innovative methods of reimbursing employees' travel expenses (this authority expired in 2005). Based on information from GSA and the experience of similar programs, CBO estimates that enacting this provision would have no significant impact on the federal budget.

S. 1000 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 Matthew Pickford. This estimate was approved by Theresa M. Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.