CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

March 12, 1998

H.R. 3096

A Bill to Correct a Provision Relating to Termination of Benefits for Convicted Persons

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce on March 11, 1998

SUMMARY

H.R. 3096 would amend Title 5 of the U.S. Code to correct a reference to Title 18 of the code. The section to be amended causes individuals convicted of fraud in the application or receipt of benefits under the Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) to forfeit their entitlement. Although the current wording in Title 5 is not precisely the same as the section it references in Title 18, 103 individuals have had their benefits terminated upon conviction of fraud under FECA since 1993, when the law first became effective. Absent this change, the ability of the Department of Labor to terminate fraudulently collected benefits could be affected. However, there have been no cases where the inconsistent wording has been used as a defense against a charge of fraud. It is unlikely, therefore, that enactment of this bill would have any significant effect on the federal budget.

H.R. 3096 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

This estimate was prepared by Christina Hawley Sadoti (federal cost), Marc Nicole (impact on state, local and tribal governments), and Kathryn Rarick (impact on the private sector).

This estimate was approved by Paul N. Van de Water, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.