



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
PAY-AS-YOU-GO ESTIMATE**

November 19, 1997

S. 923

An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit interment or memorialization in certain cemeteries of persons committing federal or state capital crimes

As cleared by the Congress on November 10, 1997

S. 923 would prohibit burial in federally funded cemeteries of persons convicted of federal or state capital crimes for which the death penalty or a sentence of life imprisonment was imposed. It would also prohibit memorial areas for such persons. Because the act could affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply--but any such effects would be negligible.

Veterans are eligible for burial in a national cemetery if they were discharged or separated from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable. Members of the armed forces who die on active duty, spouses, and minor children of veterans are also eligible. In addition, areas in national cemeteries may be set aside to honor the memory of veterans who are missing in action or whose remains are not available for burial.

CBO estimates that enactment of this legislation would have an insignificant effect on the federal budget. Using data from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics and the Federal Bureau of Prisons, CBO estimates that the act would apply to only a few persons each year. According to information from the National Cemetery Service and the Department of Veterans Affairs, the cost savings would be several hundred dollars per person.

The estimate was prepared by Dawn Sauter. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.