



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 13, 1999

H.R. 2904

A bill to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to reauthorize funding for the Office of Government Ethics, and to expand the definition of a “special government employee” under title 18, United States Code

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Government Reform on
September 30, 1999*

SUMMARY

H.R. 2904 would reauthorize the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) for fiscal years 2000 through 2003. In addition, the bill would apply the definition of a special government employee to individuals who provide regular advice or counsel to the President, Vice President, a Member of Congress, or a federal judge. Special government employees are individuals who provide temporary services to the government. Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2904 would result in additional discretionary spending of \$29 million over the 2001-2004 period (Public Law 106-58 appropriated \$9.1 million to the OGE for fiscal year 2000.) This estimate assumes an adjustment for anticipated inflation in 2002 and 2003. Without such an adjustment, we estimate additional spending would total \$27 million over the 2001-2004 period. Because H.R. 2904 would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 2904 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 2904 is shown in the following table. For the purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that the estimated authorization level will be appropriated by the start of each fiscal year and that outlays will follow the historical spending pattern of the OGE. In addition, we estimate that expanding the definition of a special government employee would not significantly increase the costs to federal agencies

and Congressional offices to review any additional financial disclosure forms required of such employees. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 800 (general government).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
OGE Spending Under Current Law					
Budget Authority ^a	9	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	9	1	0	0	0
Proposed Changes					
Estimated Authorization Level	0	9	10	10	0
Estimated Outlays	0	8	10	10	1
OGE Spending Under H.R. 2904					
Estimated Authorization Level ^a	9	9	10	10	0
Estimated Outlays	9	9	10	10	1

a. The 2000 level is the amount appropriated for that year.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 2904 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

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