



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 10, 2000

### **H.R. 4737** **Nuclear Secrets Safety Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Armed Services on June 28, 2000*

#### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 4737 would require the Department of Energy to take an inventory of all restricted material at its national security laboratories (Los Alamos, Sandia, and Lawrence Livermore) and would require measures to further control access to this material. These measures include biological identification devices for restricted vaults and electronic locks for all safes. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost about \$28 million over the 2001-2003 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary funds. Because H.R. 4737 would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

H.R. 4737 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). Public universities that contract with the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) would incur additional costs as a result of this legislation, but those costs would be covered through their contractual agreements with the federal government.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 4737 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 050 (national defense).

#### **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4737 would cost \$28 million, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Of that total, \$25 million would stem from the inventory of restricted material and \$3 million would result from the purchase and installation of biological identification devices on restricted vaults. CBO estimates no incremental cost from installing electronic locks because that is being done under current law.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Spending Under Current Law for NNSA Weapons Activities						
Estimated Authorization Level <sup>a</sup>	4,427	4,427	4,427	4,427	4,427	4,427
Estimated Outlays	4,250	4,506	4,427	4,427	4,427	4,427
Proposed Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	28	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	0	18	9	1	0	0
Spending Under H.R. 4737 for NNSA Weapons Activities						
Estimated Authorization Level	4,427	4,455	4,427	4,427	4,427	4,427
Estimated Outlays	4,250	4,524	4,436	4,428	4,427	4,427

a. The 2000 level is the amount appropriated for that year. The current-law amounts for 2001 through 2005 assume that appropriations remain at the 2000 level. If they are adjusted for inflation the base amounts would rise by about \$110 million a year, but the estimated changes would remain as shown under "Proposed Changes."

The estimated cost of taking an inventory of restricted material is based on information from the three national security laboratories. An inventory of this scope is not a routine procedure at the national security laboratories, and extra personnel would be required to complete it. The inventory would cover approximately 8.5 million documents in 4,300 repositories. Information from the labs indicate that costs would range from \$4,500 to \$8,000 to inventory each repository. CBO assumes the average cost per repository would be about \$6,000.

CBO expects that installing biological identification devices on restricted vaults would cost—on average—approximately \$5,000 per vault, based on information from the laboratories and the General Services Administration. This cost might vary widely depending on the need for integration into existing security systems and the total size of the network. CBO expects that such devices would be installed on about 540 vaults.

**PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 4737 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. Public universities that contract with the NNSA would incur additional costs as a result of this legislation, but those costs would be covered through their contractual agreements with the federal government.

### **ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

Federal Costs: Matthew A. Schmit

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Leo Lex

Impact on the Private Sector: R. William Thomas

### **ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:**

Peter H. Fontaine

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis