



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

September 15, 2000

H.R. 5107

Work Made for Hire and Copyright Corrections Act of 2000

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on September 13, 2000

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 5107 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Because the bill would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 5107 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 5107 would amend copyright law so that employers would no longer automatically own the copyrights to audio recordings created by employees as part of their jobs. Under current law, the federal government cannot obtain the copyrights to its employees' work unless it purchases those rights. Therefore, CBO estimates that this provision would not result in additional costs for the federal government.

H.R. 5107 also would allow the Copyright Office, under certain circumstances, to lower the rates on certain administrative fees that offset the agency's appropriation. Currently, the agency is only allowed to adjust these fee rates upward. Based on information from the Copyright Office, CBO estimates that enacting this provision would not cause the agency to reduce its fee rates over the next five years. Therefore, CBO expects that this provision would not have a significant impact on spending for the operations of the Copyright Office.

The CBO staff contact is Ken Johnson. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.