



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

November 7, 2000

**H.R. 5178  
Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act**

*As cleared by the Congress on October 26, 2000, and  
signed by the President on November 6, 2000*

H.R. 5178 (enacted as Public Law 106-430) will revise the blood-borne pathogens standard in effect under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. It will include safer medical devices in the definition of engineering controls. It also will require three new tasks of employers. First, it will require employers to consider new technology that eliminates or reduces exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials and to document their consideration and implementation of those devices in their annual review of their exposure control plan. Second, it will require employers to maintain a log of all employee injuries from any contaminated object that can penetrate the skin. And third, it will require employers to seek input on engineering and work practice controls from the affected health care workers. H.R. 5178 requires the Secretary of Labor to publish the modifications to the blood-borne pathogens standard in the Federal Register by May 6, 2001. Such modifications would become effective within 90 days after such publication.

As a result of the additional procedures required by this act, H.R. 5178 will increase the administrative costs of affected employers. Those employers include health care providers that are paid based on their costs by Medicare (e.g., long-term care hospitals, cancer hospitals, federally qualified health clinics, and rural health clinics). In addition, these costs could increase the rates that affected health care providers negotiate with Medicaid. CBO estimates H.R. 5178 will increase Medicare and federal Medicaid payments by less than \$500,000 over the 2001-2010 period. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 570 (Medicare) and 550 (health).

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Cyndi Dudzinski Smith. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.