



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

July 29, 1999

H.R. 987

Workplace Preservation Act

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce
on June 23, 1999*

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 987 would not have a significant impact on the federal budget. The bill could affect both federal receipts and discretionary spending, but CBO estimates that any such effects would be negligible. H.R. 987 contains no private-sector or intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) is currently undertaking a study on the effect of repetitive tasks in the workplace on musculoskeletal disorders and repetitive stress injuries. H.R. 987 would prohibit the Secretary of Labor from promulgating, through the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), any standard or guideline on ergonomics until that study is completed and submitted to the Congress. The NAS report is due to be completed by December 2000. Without this legislation, OSHA expects to issue a proposed regulation in the fall of 1999 and finalize it late in 2000 or early in 2001, although legal challenges or other developments could slow this schedule. Enactment of this legislation could delay this process for about a year, but would not significantly affect OSHA's workload or receipts from penalties levied as the result of OSHA citations during this period.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Cyndi Dudzinski for federal costs, Susan Sieg for the impact on state, local, and tribal governments, and Karuna Patel for the impact on the private sector. This estimate was approved by Paul N. Van de Water, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.