



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

August 12, 1999

S. 1543

An act to amend the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 to release and protect the release of tobacco production and marketing information

As cleared by the Congress on August 5, 1999

CBO estimates that implementing S. 1543 would result in no significant additional costs or savings to the federal government. Because enactment of S. 1543 could affect direct spending and receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures apply to the act.

Subsequent to the settlement between states attorneys general and the major tobacco manufacturing firms, a further agreement provided for states to administer trust funds for assistance to tobacco growers and to communities adversely affected by the settlement. Those funds will be financed by the tobacco companies. Some states have indicated a desire to distribute funds to growers based on information that the Agriculture Department (USDA) gathers to administer the federal program for tobacco price support. Under current law, however, the USDA is prohibited from providing such information. S. 1543 would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to release this information to state trusts that distribute national trust funds to tobacco producers.

Additionally, S. 1543 would make it illegal to use released information for any other purpose. Violators could be imprisoned or fined. Collections of such fines are recorded in the budget as governmental receipts (i.e., revenues), which are deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and spent in subsequent years. CBO estimates that any additional collections under this act are likely to be negligible. Because any increase in direct spending would equal the fines collected (with a lag of one year or more), the additional direct spending also would be negligible.

The CBO staff contact is Dave Hull. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.