



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

September 22, 2000

S. 2829

**A bill to provide for an investigation and audit at the
Department of Education**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
on May 25, 2000*

S. 2829 would direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an audit of certain accounts at the Department of Education. Assuming appropriation of the necessary funds, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost about \$1 million in 2001. Because enactment of S. 2829 would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

Based on information from the General Accounting Office (GAO), CBO estimates that the audit would cost between \$800,000 and \$1 million. Because the audit would have to be completed within six months of the bill's enactment, it would have a relatively restricted scope. It would be oriented toward the department's student financial aid programs and focus on specific areas that GAO identifies as highly susceptible to errors. A preliminary review by GAO staff suggests that the limited audit would require about three full-time equivalent staff-years (for example, six employees working full time for six months) as well as some work by outside contractors.

S. 2829 is similar to H.R. 4079, which was passed by the House of Representatives on June 13, 2000. CBO's estimate for that bill, dated June 8, 2000, is identical to that for S. 2829.

S. 2829 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no effect on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

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