



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

July 9, 1999

S. 467

Expeditious Action on Telecommunications Merger Act

As reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on July 1, 1999

S. 467 would set time limits for the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) review of certain telecommunications mergers. These limits would apply to acquisitions of voting securities or assets that involve transfers of FCC licenses or the acquisition and operation of telecommunications lines. The commission would be directed to complete its reviews within either 90 days or 180 days, depending on the size or other features of the merger. If the commission fails to complete action within the appropriate time frame, the application would be deemed approved.

CBO estimates that implementing this bill would have no net budgetary impact. Based on information from the FCC, we estimate that this legislation would affect the timing, but not the amount, of the commission's expenditures related to such reviews. Because the agency charge's fees to cover its costs, any change in the amounts appropriated for the FCC would be matched by an adjustment in the fees paid by the telecommunications industry. (Such fees are credited as an offset to the FCC's appropriation.) S. 467 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

S. 467 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.

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