



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

December 19, 2001

H.R. 1892 **Family Sponsor Immigration Act of 2001**

As reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on December 13, 2001

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1892 would result in no significant cost to the federal government. The act could affect direct spending and receipts, so pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but we estimate that any such effects would be insignificant. H.R. 1892 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.

Current law requires that applicants for family-based immigrant visas be sponsored by an immediate relative who will provide financial support if necessary. If the sponsor dies while the application is pending, then a new application must be filed. In this situation, H.R. 1892 would permit the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to allow certain other relatives to replace a deceased sponsor and to proceed with the approval process without filing a new application.

Based on information from the INS, CBO expects that the act's provisions would aid no more than several hundred applicants each year. Thus, any effects on fees collected by INS or the Department of State would be insignificant. INS fees are classified as offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending); and the State Department fees are classified as governmental receipts (i.e., revenues).

On July 5, 2001, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 1892 as ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on June 26, 2001. The two versions of the legislation are very similar, and the cost estimates are identical.

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