



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

July 31, 2001

H.R. 2275
Voting Technology Standards Act of 2001
As ordered reported by the House Committee on Science on July 18, 2001

SUMMARY

H.R. 2275 would establish a new commission to develop voluntary standards for voting equipment and other systems. The bill also would require the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to provide technical support to the commission, establish a new research and development program on voting systems, and accredit independent laboratories to certify that voting systems conform with the commission's voluntary standards.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2275 would cost \$35 million over the 2002-2006 period, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

H.R. 2275 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 2275 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 370 (commerce and housing credit).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Estimated Authorization Level	7	7	7	8	8
Estimated Outlays	5	7	7	8	8

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

Based on information from NIST, CBO estimates that it would cost the commission and NIST about \$2 million a year to develop standards for the operation of voting equipment. These funds would be used to hire about 10 technicians and purchase necessary equipment. In addition, CBO estimates that NIST would incur annual costs of about \$5 million under the bill to pay for testing machines and the salaries and benefits for about 35 engineers, statisticians, and other staff needed to conduct the research and accreditation programs. Based on NIST's historical spending patterns and adjusting annually for inflation, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2275 would cost a total of about \$5 million in 2002 and about \$35 million over the 2002-2006 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary funds.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 2275 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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