



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

December 19, 2001

H.R. 2277

**An act to provide for work authorization for nonimmigrant spouses of
treaty traders and treaty investors**

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

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2277 would result in no significant net cost to the federal government. The act could affect direct spending, so pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but we estimate that any net effects would be insignificant. H.R. 2277 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.

H.R. 2277 would permit the spouses of certain nonimmigrant investors and businessmen to seek employment in the United States. Based on information from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), CBO estimates that the act's provisions would apply to roughly 10,000 spouses annually. The INS would charge a fee of \$100 to provide a work permit, so the agency could collect an additional \$1 million annually in offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending). The agency is authorized to spend such fees without further appropriation, so the net impact on INS spending would be negligible.

On July 27, 2001, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 2277 as ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on July 24, 2001. The two versions of the legislation are identical, as are the cost estimates.

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