



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 4, 2001

H.R. 2541

A bill to enhance the authorities of special agents and provide limited authorities to uniformed officers responsible for the protection of domestic Department of State occupied facilities

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on International Relations
on August 1, 2001*

The bill would expand the law enforcement authorities of special agents and uniformed officers who are responsible for security at facilities occupied by the Department of State and establish a new federal crime for intentionally interfering with federal law enforcement agents or with persons under their protection. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2541 would not result in any significant cost to the federal government. Because enactment of H.R. 2541 could affect direct spending and receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply to the bill. However, CBO estimates that any impact on direct spending and receipts would not be significant. H.R. 2541 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.

Because H.R. 2541 would establish a new federal crime, the government would be able to prosecute cases that it otherwise would not be able to pursue. Based on information from the State Department, CBO estimates that the bill would apply to a small number of offenders and any increase in costs for law enforcement, court proceedings, or prison operations would not be significant. Any such costs would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Because those prosecuted and convicted under H.R. 2541 could be subject to criminal fines, the federal government might collect additional fines if the legislation is enacted. Collections of such fines are recorded in the budget as governmental receipts (revenues), which are deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and later spent. CBO expects that any additional receipts and direct spending would be negligible because of the small number of cases involved.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Sunita D'Monte (for the State Department) and Mark Grabowicz (for law enforcement). This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.