



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 7, 2004

### **Act for Elder Justice**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
on September 24, 2004*

#### **SUMMARY**

This legislation would authorize an Office on Elder Abuse Prevention and Services within the Administration on Aging in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In addition, the bill would authorize grants to states for the purpose of strengthening long-term care and providing assistance for elder justice programs. CBO estimates that the bill would authorize appropriations of \$210 million for fiscal year 2005 and \$877 million over the 2005-2009 period, including adjustments for inflation. Assuming appropriation of the estimated amounts, CBO estimates that the implementing the bill would cost \$27 million in fiscal year 2005 and \$768 million over the 2005-2009 period. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or receipts.

The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). State, local, and tribal governments would be eligible for grants authorized by the bill, and the costs of any requirements tied to those grants would be incurred voluntarily.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of the Act for Elder Justice is summarized in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 500 (education, training, employment, and social services).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>					
Office of Elder Abuse Prevention and Services					
Estimated Authorization Level	10	10	11	11	11
Estimated Outlays	7	10	11	11	11
State Grants					
Estimated Authorization Level	200	204	208	212	0
Estimated Outlays	20	120	182	206	189
Total Changes					
Estimated Authorization Level	210	214	219	223	11
Estimated Outlays	27	130	193	217	200

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted near the start of fiscal year 2005 and that the necessary amounts will be appropriated for each year. The estimated outlays are based on the spending patterns of activities similar in nature to those authorized under this bill.

### **Office of Elder Abuse Prevention and Services**

The bill would establish a federal Office of Elder Abuse Prevention and Services within HHS' Administration on Aging. The office would carry out elder justice programs and activities; collect data relating to the abuse, exploitation, and neglect of elderly people; and conduct research, develop best practices, and provide technical assistance to states and other entities. This office would be added to the existing Administration on Aging, for which there is a permanent authorization of appropriations of such sums as may be necessary. Based on recent appropriations for similar activities dealing with the administration of child abuse and neglect programs, CBO estimates that authorizations for these activities would total \$10 million for fiscal year 2005 and \$54 million for the 2005-2009 period.

## **State Grants**

The bill would authorize the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2005 through 2008 for grants to states and Indian tribes for strengthening long-term care and assisting with elder justice programs—including the prevention, detection, assessment, treatment of, intervention in, and investigation of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Based on recent appropriations for similar activities dealing with child abuse and neglect and the number of elderly persons relative to the number of children, CBO estimates that authorizations for these activities would total \$200 million for fiscal year 2005 and \$823 million for the 2005-2008 period.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. The bill would authorize grants to state, local, and tribal governments for prevention and intervention programs, elder shelters, volunteer programs, training, and multidisciplinary and collaborative programs tied to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The costs of any requirements tied to these grants would be incurred voluntarily.

## **PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE**

On September 27, 2004, CBO provided an estimate for S. 333, the Elder Justice Act of 2004, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Finance on September 20, 2004. S. 333 differs in scope from this bill, and contains specific (rather than "such sums") authorizations for fiscal years 2006 through 2009. CBO estimated that S. 333 would cost \$763 million over the 2006-2009 period.

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