



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 25, 2004

H.R. 3966

ROTC and Military Recruiter Equal Access to Campus Act of 2004

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Armed Services on March 17, 2004

H.R. 3966 would help ensure that the Department of Defense (DoD) has access to colleges and universities for its recruiters and its Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program. Among other things, the bill would prohibit schools that deny access to DoD from receiving funding from various federal agencies. CBO estimates that implementing this bill would have no significant effect on the federal budget. It would not affect direct spending or receipts.

H.R. 3966 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, but would add new requirements to existing aid programs; any costs incurred by public or private colleges and universities would be voluntary.

Under current law, institutions of higher education that prohibit either the establishment of a ROTC unit or a student from enrolling in a ROTC unit at another school can be denied funds from DoD, the Department of Labor, the Department of Health and Human Services, or the Department of Education. Schools that prevent military recruiting of their students can be denied funds from those agencies and from the Department of Transportation (DOT). H.R. 3966 would expand the list of federal agencies prohibited from providing funding to schools that deny DoD access for ROTC or recruiting to include the Department of Homeland Security, the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Nuclear Security Administration of the Department of Energy, and DOT. The bill would clarify that student financial assistance is an exception to the prohibition of funding. In addition, the bill would make clear that access to campuses should be provided in a manner that is at least equal in quality and scope to the access provided to any other employer that recruits at the school.

Based on information obtained from DoD, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3966 would have no significant effect on the department's spending. Currently, only one school in the country is prohibited from receiving funding because it denies DoD access to its campus and, according to DoD, another school will likely be added to this list in the near future. A few other schools could be denied funding under this bill because they provide military recruiters substandard facilities or otherwise make it difficult for recruiters to talk

to students. CBO expects that most of these schools would take the necessary steps to comply with the access requirements specified in H.R. 3966, and that implementing this bill would therefore not have any significant effect on federal spending.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Michelle S. Patterson

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Melissa Merrell

Impact on the Private Sector: Chad Goldberg

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Robert A. Sunshine

Assistant Director for Budget Analysis