



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

March 18, 2004

**H.R. 3973
Spending Control Act of 2004**

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

The Spending Control Act of 2004 would amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to restore certain budget enforcement procedures that expired at the end of fiscal year 2002. The bill would establish limits on discretionary spending for fiscal years 2005 through 2009 and reinstate pay-as-you-go requirements for mandatory spending (but not for revenues) through 2009, both enforceable by automatic spending cuts if the limits are not adhered to. In addition to restoring expired procedures, the legislation would add some new definitions, prohibit the extension of emergency funding in future baseline projections, except refundable tax credits from the new pay-as-you-go procedures, and make a number of technical corrections.

The Spending Control Act would have no direct effects on federal spending or receipts but would establish budget enforcement procedures that could affect the budget. H.R. 3973 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.

The CBO staff contact is Jeff Holland. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.