



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 4, 2004

### **S. 2536**

### **Homeland Security Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Protection Act of 2004**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs  
on July 21, 2004*

S. 2536 would amend the Homeland Security Act to codify and strengthen the authority of the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The officer would be responsible for developing plans to ensure that civil liberties are protected and incorporated in the department's policies. The legislation also would clarify the roles of the department's Officer of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and the Privacy Officer on issues of mixed jurisdiction. In addition, S. 2536 would establish a senior staff position within DHS's Office of Inspector General responsible for coordinating civil rights and civil liberty investigations.

CBO estimates that implementing S. 2536 would cost less than \$500,000 a year, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. The legislation would codify and expand the current practices of the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties at DHS, but it would not add significantly to the office's costs. Based on information from the Office of Inspector General, CBO expects that the new senior staff position would not significantly increase that office's operating costs. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 2536 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

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