



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 22, 2006

H.R. 5216

Preservation of Records of Servitude, Emancipation, and Post-Civil War Reconstruction Act of 2006

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Government Reform on June 8, 2006

SUMMARY

H.R. 5216 would require the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to establish a national database of historic records relating to slavery, emancipation, and post-Civil War reconstruction contained within federal agencies. In addition, the legislation would require the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) to provide grants to states, colleges, universities, libraries, and museums to preserve similar local records. The legislation would authorize the appropriation of \$5 million for the national database and \$5 million for local preservation grants. CBO estimates that NARA would need \$1 million a year to update and maintain the database after it is established.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts and based on information from NARA, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 5216 would cost \$4 million in 2007 and \$13 million over the 2007-2011 period. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues. H.R. 5216 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA); any costs to state, local, and tribal governments would result from complying with grant conditions.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted near the start of fiscal year 2007 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each year. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$13 million over the 2007-2011 period. Estimated outlays are based on information from NARA and historical spending patterns of similar programs. The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 5216 is shown on the following table. The cost of this legislation falls within budget function 800 (general government).

	By Fiscal Year, In Millions of Dollars				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Establish National Database					
Authorization Level	5	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	3	2	0	0	0
Local Preservation Grants					
Authorization Level	1	1	1	1	1
Estimated Outlays	1	1	1	1	1
Maintain National Databases					
Estimated Authorization Level	0	0	1	1	1
Estimated Outlays	0	0	1	1	1
Total Changes					
Estimated Authorization Level	6	1	1	2	2
Estimated Outlays	4	3	2	2	2

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 5216 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. The legislation would authorize \$5 million in grants to preserve certain records and establish an electronically searchable database of those records. To the extent that state and local governments apply for and receive these grants, they would benefit from the provisions in the bill. Any costs to grantees would result from complying with grant conditions.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

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