



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

October 25, 2006

**H.R. 5219**  
**Judicial Transparency and Ethics Enhancement Act of 2006**  
*As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on September 27, 2006*

**SUMMARY**

H.R. 5219 would establish an Office of Inspector General for the Judicial Branch with responsibility for conducting investigations into certain complaints made against judges, and for making recommendations for eliminating fraud, waste, and abuse. CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would cost \$15 million in 2007 and \$97 million over the 2007-2011 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting the bill would have no effect on direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 5219 would impose both an intergovernmental and private-sector mandate, as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA), by giving subpoena power to the Inspector General for the judicial branch. CBO expects that the costs of complying with that mandate would be small and well below the annual thresholds established in that act (\$64 million for intergovernmental mandates and \$128 million for private-sector mandates in 2006, adjusted annually for inflation).

**ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 5219 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 750 (administration of justice).

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	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011

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**CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION**

Estimated Authorization Level	19	20	20	21	22
Estimated Outlays	15	19	20	21	22

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## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

H.R. 5219 would establish an Office of Inspector General with responsibility for conducting investigations to detect and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse within the judicial branch, and for recommending changes to judicial branch procedures. The Inspector General would also investigate certain complaints filed against judges for misconduct. Based on spending by existing Inspectors General for other federal agencies, CBO estimates that an Inspector General for the Judiciary would require a staff of approximately 100 people at a cost of \$15 million in 2007 and \$97 million over the 2007-2011 period. Such costs would be subject to amounts provided in future appropriation acts.

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

This bill would impose both an intergovernmental and private-sector mandate because it would establish an Inspector General for the judicial branch with the authority to subpoena information. State, local, and tribal governments, and entities in the private sector, if subpoenaed, would be required to attend hearings, provide testimony, or produce certain materials. CBO expects that the Inspector General would likely exercise this authority sparingly and that the costs to comply with a subpoena would not be significant. Thus, CBO estimates that the total costs to public and private entities would be small and well below the annual thresholds established in UMRA (\$64 million for intergovernmental mandates and \$128 million for private-sector mandates in 2006, adjusted annually for inflation).

### **ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

Federal Costs: Daniel Hoople

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

Impact on the Private Sector: Paige Piper/Bach

### **ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:**

Peter H. Fontaine

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis