



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 26, 2006

H.R. 5388

District of Columbia Fair and Equal House Voting Rights Act of 2006

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Government Reform on May 18, 2006

SUMMARY

H.R. 5388 would expand the number of Members in the House of Representatives from 435 to 437 beginning with the 110th Congress (i.e., in 2007). The legislation would provide the District of Columbia with one Representative and add one new at-large Member. Under H.R. 5388, the new at-large seat would initially be assigned to the state of Utah and then would be reallocated based on the next Congressional apportionment based on the 2010 census.

CBO estimates that enacting the bill would increase direct spending by about \$200,000 in 2007 and by about \$2.5 million over the 2007-2015 period. In addition, implementing the bill would have discretionary costs of \$1 million in 2007 and about \$7 million over the 2007-2011 period, assuming the availability of the appropriated funds.

H.R. 5388 contains an intergovernmental mandate as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA), but CBO estimates that the costs would not be significant and would not exceed the threshold established in UMRA (\$64 million in 2006, adjusted annually for inflation). The bill contains no private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 5388 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 800 (general government).

By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
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CHANGES IN DIRECT SPENDING

Representative Salary and Benefits										
Estimated Budget Authority	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Estimated Outlays	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION

Representative's Office and Administrative Expenses										
Estimated Authorization Level	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
Estimated Outlays	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2

NOTE: * = less than \$500,000.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted near the start of fiscal year 2007 and that spending will follow historical patterns for Congressional office spending.

The legislation would permanently expand the number of Members in the House of Representatives by two to 437 Members. One new Member would represent the District of Columbia and the other would be a Representative at-large for the state of Utah until the next apportionment based on the 2010 census. The District of Columbia currently has a nonvoting delegate to the House of Representatives; establishing voting representation for the conversion from delegate to Representative would not add significant costs since the position is already funded with the same salary and administrative support as other Representatives.

Direct Spending

Enacting H.R. 5388 would increase direct spending for the salary and associated benefits for the new at-large Representative. CBO estimates that the increase in direct spending for the Congressional salary and benefits would be about \$2.5 million over the 2007-2015 period. That estimate assumes that the current Congressional salary of \$162,100 would be adjusted for inflation. With benefits, the 2007 cost would be about \$200,000.

Spending Subject to Appropriation

Based on the current administrative and expense allowances available for Members and other typical Congressional office costs, CBO estimates that the addition of a new Member would cost about \$1 million in fiscal year 2007 and about \$7 million over the 2007-2011 period, subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

H.R. 5388 contains an intergovernmental mandate as defined in UMRA because it would temporarily preempt laws in the state of Utah that govern the election of Members of the House of Representatives. The bill would require the state to elect an additional Member of the House using a statewide election. The state may derive benefits from having an additional Member of the House of Representatives. However, Utah could incur some costs to hold a special election in 2006 or 2007 and would incur small marginal costs to elect the additional Member through the 2010 election cycle. CBO estimates that these costs would not be significant and would not exceed the threshold established in UMRA (\$64 million in 2006, adjusted annually for inflation.)

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR

The bill contains no private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

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