



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 1, 2006

### **S. 860**

### **American History Achievement Act**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor, and Pensions on May 17, 2006*

#### **SUMMARY**

S. 860 would amend the National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act (NAEPAA) and authorize funds to conduct trial academic assessments of student achievement in U.S. history and civics in grades 8 and 12 in at least 10 geographically diverse states. The bill also would direct the Commissioner of Education Statistics to give priority to conducting national assessments of student achievement in history at least once every four years in grades 4, 8, and 12.

The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$8.5 million for both the fiscal year preceding and the fiscal year during the conduct of the trial assessments and such sums as may be necessary for each fiscal year after those assessments are completed. CBO assumes the first trial assessments would occur in fiscal year 2010 and every four years thereafter and estimates that outlays would total \$14 million over the 2009-2011 period. CBO assumes that the appropriations for 2009 and 2010 would be sufficient to cover all the costs of the assessments and no additional funding would be necessary in 2011. The Congress appropriated \$93 million for programs under the NAEPAA in fiscal year 2006; those programs are set to expire in fiscal year 2008 under current law.

S. 860 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA); any costs to state, local, or tribal governments would be incurred voluntarily.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 860 is shown in the following table. CBO estimates that implementing this bill would cost \$14 million over the 2009-2011 period and \$3 million

in 2012, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. The estimated outlays reflect historical spending patterns for these programs. These costs would fall within budget function 500 (education, employment, training, and social services).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
<b>Spending Under Current Law</b>						
Estimated Authorization Level <sup>a</sup>	93	95	96	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	94	94	95	73	28	4
<b>Proposed Changes</b>						
Estimated Authorization Level	--	0	0	9	9	0
Estimated Outlays	--	0	0	2	6	6
<b>Total Spending</b>						
Estimated Authorization Level	93	95	96	9	9	0
Estimated Outlays	94	94	95	75	34	10

a. The 2006 amount is the total appropriated for the National Assessment of Educational Progress and the National Assessment Governing Board in that year.

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

S. 860 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. The bill would authorize academic assessments of history and civics, on a trial basis, for grades 8 and 12. Any costs that states or local education agencies might incur to participate in those assessments would be incurred voluntarily.

### **ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

Federal Costs: Justin Humphrey  
 Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Lisa Ramirez-Branum  
 Impact on the Private Sector: Nabeel Alsalam

### **ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:**

Peter H. Fontaine  
 Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis