



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 17, 2007

H.R. 1593 **Second Chance Act of 2007**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on March 28, 2007

SUMMARY

H.R. 1593 would authorize the appropriation of \$181 million for each of fiscal years 2008 and 2009 for Department of Justice (DOJ) grant programs to improve the treatment of inmates and to help offenders reenter communities after they have served their prison sentences. H.R. 1593 also would authorize the appropriation of \$10 million a year for 2008 and 2009 for Bureau of Prisons (BOP) activities to prepare prisoners for successful reentry into the community. In addition, the bill would authorize the appropriation of such sums as necessary for those two years for DOJ to make grants to state and local prosecutors to develop drug-treatment programs for offenders that would serve as alternatives to imprisonment.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized and estimated amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1593 would cost about \$400 million over the 2008-2012 period. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or receipts.

H.R. 1593 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 1593 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 750 (administration of justice).

		By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
		2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION							
Spending Under Current Law for Programs Authorized by H.R. 1593							
	Budget Authority ^a	5	0	0	0	0	0
	Estimated Outlays	8	5	4	2	1	0
Proposed Changes:							
DOJ Programs for Offenders							
	Authorization Level	0	181	181	0	0	0
	Estimated Outlays	0	33	86	92	70	55
BOP Programs							
	Authorization Level	0	10	10	0	0	0
	Estimated Outlays	0	8	10	2	0	0
Grants to State and Local Prosecutors for Alternatives to Prison Programs							
	Estimated Authorization Level	0	20	20	0	0	0
	Estimated Outlays	0	4	10	10	7	6
Other Programs							
	Estimated Authorization Level	0	3	0	0	0	0
	Estimated Outlays	0	1	1	1	0	0
Total Changes							
	Estimated Authorization Level	0	214	211	0	0	0
	Estimated Outlays	0	46	107	105	77	61
Spending Under H.R. 1593							
	Estimated Authorization Level ^a	5	214	211	0	0	0
	Estimated Outlays	8	51	111	107	78	61

a. The 2007 level is the amount appropriated for that year for that year for the programs authorized by H.R. 1593.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1593 would cost about \$400 million over the 2008-2012 period. For this estimate, CBO assumes that the necessary amounts will be appropriated by the start of each fiscal year and that spending will follow historical patterns for similar activities.

Programs for Offenders

H.R. 1593 would authorize the appropriation of \$181 million for each of fiscal years 2008 and 2009 for DOJ to make grants to state and local governments, territories, Indian tribes, and nonprofit organizations for programs to improve the treatment of prisoners, including substance abuse services and educational activities, and assistance to offenders after they have served their prison sentences.

BOP Programs

H.R. 1593 would authorize the appropriation of \$5 million for each of the next two years for BOP to establish a prisoner reentry program and revise reentry procedures already in place. The new program would provide prisoners nearing the completion of their sentences with information about health and nutrition, finding employment, money management, social skills, and the availability of government resources. The bill also would authorize the appropriation of \$5 million a year for 2008 and 2009 for BOP to establish the Elderly Nonviolent Offender Pilot Program. The program would allow certain nonviolent prisoners over 60 years of age to be placed in home detention for the duration of their sentence.

Grants to State and Local Prosecutors for Alternatives to Prison Programs

H.R. 1593 would authorize the appropriation of such sums as necessary for each of fiscal years 2008 and 2009 for DOJ to make grants to state and local prosecutors to develop drug-treatment programs for offenders that would serve as alternatives to imprisonment. Based on the funding provided in recent years for similar activities such as the Drug Courts program, CBO estimates that this provision would require funding of \$20 million in each year.

Other Programs

H.R. 1593 would direct the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics to prepare several studies and reports, mostly on recidivism and other issues relating to the reentry of offenders into the community. Based on the costs of similar activities, CBO estimates that it would cost \$3 million in 2008 to carry out this provision.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 1593 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Assuming appropriation of authorized amounts, state local, and tribal governments would receive more than \$350 million over the 2008-2012 period to provide services to certain criminal offenders. Any costs to those governments would be incurred voluntarily as a condition of receiving federal assistance.

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