CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

May 8, 2007

H.R. 1773

Safe American Roads Act of 2007

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on May 2, 2007

H.R. 1773 would authorize the Department of Transportation (DOT) to establish a pilot program to allow certain motor carriers based in Mexico to operate throughout the United States. Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1773 would cost less than $500,000 in 2008 and $2 million over the 2008-2012 period. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 1773 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not directly affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 1773 would authorize DOT to establish a pilot program for up to three years that would allow up to 100 Mexican-based motor carriers, operating up to a total of 1,000 vehicles, to engage in business throughout the United States. The bill also would require the department's Office of Inspector General to monitor and review the program and would require DOT to submit a total of four reports to the Congress on safety issues. Under the bill, the pilot program could not be implemented until Mexico grants similar access to motor carriers based in the United States and until DOT completes certain reports. Based on information from DOT, CBO expects that those requirements would be met before or during 2008. Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts and based on information from DOT, CBO estimates that H.R. 1773 would cost less than $500,000 in 2008 and $2 million over the 2008-2012 period.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Sarah Puro. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.