



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

October 8, 2008

**H.R. 642**  
**Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones College Fire Prevention Act**  
*As passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on September 23, 2008*

H.R. 642 would authorize the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2011 for a demonstration program to award grants to institutions of higher education to install fire sprinkler systems or other fire suppression devices in student dormitories. Under the General Education Provisions Act, that authorization would automatically be extended for one year, to 2012.

Based on the scope of other demonstration programs, CBO assumes that this program would provide grants to 20 institutions per year. Using information from similar projects, CBO estimates that the average cost of installing sprinkler systems would be about \$10 million, with the institutions required to provide matching funds equal to 50 percent of the grant. As shown in the following table, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 642 would result in discretionary spending of about \$350 million over the 2009-2013 period, assuming the appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting H.R. 642 would have no impact on direct spending or revenues.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2009-2013
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Estimated Authorization Level	100	100	100	100	0	400
Estimated Outlays	25	65	85	97	75	347

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 642 will be enacted near the start of fiscal year 2009, that the necessary funds will be appropriated for each year, and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns of similar programs. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 500 (education, training, employment, and social services).

H.R. 642 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. Public universities and colleges could benefit from the grants authorized by this legislation to install fire suppression and prevention technologies. Any requirements of the grant program would be conditions of receiving federal assistance and would not be intergovernmental mandates as defined by UMRA.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Justin Humphrey. This estimate was approved by Keith Fontenot, Deputy Assistant Director for Health and Human Resources, Budget Analysis Division.