



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 15, 2008

S. 2840

Military Personnel Citizenship Processing Act

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on May 8, 2008

CBO estimates that implementing S. 2840 would cost less than \$1 million in fiscal year 2009 and less than \$500,000 in each year thereafter, assuming the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting the bill could affect direct spending, but CBO estimates that any such effects would not be significant in any year. Enacting S. 2840 would not affect revenues.

S. 2840 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 2840 would establish a new office in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to monitor the progress of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in completing background checks relating to applications for naturalization from members of the U.S. Armed Forces. In addition, the bill would require DHS to adjudicate such applications within six months of receiving them or provide an explanation to the applicant for not meeting this deadline. S. 2840 also would direct the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to prepare a report for the Congress on average processing times for naturalization applications submitted by members of the Armed Forces. The provisions of S. 2840 would expire five years after the date of the bill's enactment.

Based on information from DHS, CBO estimates that the new Office of the FBI Liaison would require a staff of no more than two or three persons and would cost less than \$500,000 annually, from appropriated funds. Based on the cost of similar studies, we estimate that the GAO report would cost less than \$500,000 from appropriated funds in fiscal year 2009.

Enacting S. 2840 also would increase administrative costs for DHS to expedite and track the processing of applications for naturalization from members of the Armed Forces. CBO estimates that such costs would not be significant in any year because of the relatively small number of applications affected. Such costs would be funded by fees collected by DHS and would be classified as direct spending.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. This estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.