



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

May 18, 2009

**H.R. 2344
Webcaster Settlement Act of 2009**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on May 13, 2009

H.R. 2344 would allow entities that broadcast audio content over the Internet (Webcasters) to continue to negotiate royalty rates with SoundExchange, the entity designated to collect royalties for the music industry. Under provisions of the Webcaster Settlement Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-435), SoundExchange was given limited authority to enter into royalty fee agreements with Webcasters that would differ from the rates established by the Copyright Royalty Board. This limited authority expired on February 15, 2009; H.R. 2344 would extend the authority for 30 days after the date of enactment of the bill.

Because royalties collected and paid out by SoundExchange do not flow through the federal budget, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2344 would have no effect on federal receipts or spending.

H.R. 2344 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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