



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

September 14, 2009

**H.R. 2393  
Military Voting Protection Act of 2009**

*As ordered reported by the Committee on House Administration  
on June 10, 2009*

H.R. 2393 would amend the Uniformed Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to require the Department of Defense (DoD) to collect and deliver absentee ballots of personnel of the uniformed services deployed or stationed overseas. The bill would affect ballots cast in regularly scheduled general elections for federal office and would require DoD to use the express mail service of the U.S. Postal Service to deliver such ballots.

The Postal Service estimates it would charge DoD about \$13.50 per ballot to ship the ballots back to the United States. Based upon data from the Defense Manpower Data Center on the number of military personnel deployed or stationed overseas as of March 2009—the last report currently available—and data from the U.S. Census Bureau on voting participation of the U.S. population, CBO estimates that approximately 165,000 and 275,000 ballots would be shipped by express mail in the 2010 and 2012 elections, respectively. Based upon those factors, and accounting for inflation, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost approximately \$2 million in fiscal year 2011 and \$4 million in fiscal year 2013, assuming the appropriation of the necessary amounts.

Section 4 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act excludes from the application of that act any legislative provisions that enforce the constitutional rights of individuals. CBO has determined that H.R. 2393 would fall within that exclusion because it would protect individuals' voting rights. Therefore, we have not reviewed the bill for mandates.

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