



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 30, 2010

S. 2974 **Return of Talent Act**

As reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on March 26, 2010

CBO estimates that implementing S. 2974 would cost less than \$1 million from appropriated funds in fiscal year 2011. Because the legislation could affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but we estimate that those effects would not be significant. Enacting the bill would not affect revenues.

S. 2974 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. 2974 would direct the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to establish a program to permit certain permanent U.S. residents and their families to return temporarily to their countries of citizenship to assist in local efforts to recover from natural disasters or military conflicts or to provide medical services. The program would be limited to 1,000 persons each year, plus their families, and in most cases those individuals would have to return to the United States within one year or they would not qualify to return. S. 2974 would authorize the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011 for DHS to carry out the bill's provisions.

Based on information from DHS, CBO estimates that it would cost the department less than \$1 million from appropriated funds in 2011 to establish and administer this program. Under the bill, costs in subsequent years would be covered by fees collected by DHS to provide immigration adjudication services. CBO estimates that any net impact of the bill on direct spending would be insignificant for each year because of the small number of persons expected to participate in this program.

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