



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 7, 2009

S. 615

A bill to provide additional personnel authorities for the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on April 1, 2009

S. 615 would amend the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 to provide additional personnel authorities to the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) similar to those provided to the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction (SIGIR). The legislation would expedite the standard hiring process for civil service positions by permitting the SIGAR to use certain employment authorities currently granted to heads of other temporary organizations. Employees hired under this new authority could serve until the termination of the SIGAR office.

According to the SIGAR, the agency has been able to bypass the standard hiring process by hiring all of its employees through the SIGIR—which already has the additional authorities provided in this bill—and then having these personnel detailed to the SIGAR. Thus, CBO expects that allowing the SIGAR to begin hiring such personnel directly would not significantly affect the amount or timing of the agency's expenditures. CBO therefore estimates that implementing the bill would have no significant effect on spending subject to appropriation. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 615 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.

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