



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 1, 2009

### **S. 707**

#### **Telework Enhancement Act of 2009**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security  
and Governmental Affairs on May 20, 2009*

S. 707 would require the executive branch of the federal government to establish policies to determine which federal employees are eligible to participate in federal telework programs (telework programs enable employees to work from places other than their official duty stations). The legislation also would require agencies to incorporate telework options into their emergency operations plans. Finally, S. 707 would authorize appropriations to pay for the cost of two test programs regarding certain travel expenses of telework employees.

CBO estimates that implementing S. 707 would increase administrative costs across federal agencies by \$5 million in 2010 and by \$25 million over the 2010-2014 period assuming availability of appropriated funds. That amount includes initial costs to notify employees of their eligibility to participate in telework programs and the rest of the annual reporting requirements specified in the bill. S. 707 could affect direct spending and revenues, but CBO estimates that such amounts would not be significant in any year.

Under current law, executive branch agencies are required to establish policies for employees to participate in telework programs to the maximum extent possible without diminishing employees' performance. The General Services Administration (GSA) and the Office of Personnel Management provide guidance and resources to federal agencies to support telework policies governmentwide. This bill would require agencies to establish and implement policies to enable eligible employees to participate in telework programs and annually report on their efforts.

For most agencies, any such impact on spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds; however, the bill could affect direct spending by agencies not funded through annual appropriations, such as the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Bonneville Power Administration. CBO estimates, however, that any increase in spending for telework programs by those agencies would not be significant.

The legislation also would authorize two test programs—one seven-year program for the government as a whole and one eight-year program for the Patent and Trademark Office to reimburse the travel expenses of certain teleworking employees. CBO expects that few federal employees would change their work location as a result of those programs. We expect that any savings, such as lower costs for office space or diminished locality pay adjustments, would be offset by additional costs for travel and equipment so that implementing those programs would have no significant net impact on the federal budget.

S. 707 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 Matthew Pickford. This estimate was approved by Theresa M. Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.