



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

June 21, 2011

H.R. 2117

Protecting Academic Freedom in Higher Education Act

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce
on June 15, 2011*

H.R. 2117 would repeal two regulations published by the Department of Education. The first requires institutions of higher education to be authorized by the state or states in which they offer a curriculum, and the second defines the term “credit hour.” In addition, the bill would prohibit the department from defining the term “credit hour” after the date of enactment.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2117 would have an insignificant effect on discretionary spending. Additionally, CBO projects that enacting the bill could affect direct spending by increasing eligibility for federal student aid, such as student loans and Pell grants; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. However, because only a small number of students would be eligible for additional student aid, CBO estimates that the direct spending effects would be insignificant for each year and over the 2011-2021 period. Enacting the bill would have no impact on revenues.

H.R. 2117 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 Justin Humphrey. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.