



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

May 2, 2011

S. 679
Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act of 2011

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs on April 13, 2011*

S. 679 would reduce the number of Presidential appointees that require Senate confirmation and establish a working group to consider ways to streamline the Presidential appointment process. Based on information from federal entities involved in the appointment process, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Enacting S. 679 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

S. 679 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 bill would reduce the number of Presidential appointees requiring Senate confirmation from about 1,200 (excluding judges) to around 1,000. The legislation also would eliminate the statutory requirement that the Senate confirm several thousand commissioned officers of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

CBO expects that enacting the bill could reduce the workloads of certain federal employees; however, because those employees would probably be retained and assigned other tasks, we estimate that implementing the legislation would lead to a negligible reduction in spending subject to appropriation.

The legislation also would establish a working group to examine the process for conducting background investigations of Presidential appointees and study ways to streamline paperwork associated with the appointment process. Because the working group would be staffed by existing government employees and unpaid experts, CBO estimates that implementing this provision would have no significant cost.

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