



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

May 23, 2013

S. 657

Foreign Prison Conditions Improvement Act of 2013

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
on April 16, 2013*

SUMMARY

S. 657 would authorize the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to provide assistance to improve conditions in foreign prisons and require those agencies to prepare reports on those conditions in at least 30 countries as well as efforts to improve them. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would have discretionary costs of about \$380 million over the 2014-2018 period, assuming appropriation of the estimated amounts. Pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply to this legislation because it would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 657 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 657 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 150 (international affairs).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2014- 2018
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Foreign Assistance						
Estimated Authorization Level	131	134	137	140	143	685
Estimated Outlays	5	25	85	122	132	369
Administrative Expenses						
Estimated Authorization Level	2	2	2	2	2	10
Estimated Outlays	1	2	2	2	2	9
Total Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	133	136	139	142	145	695
Estimated Outlays	6	27	87	124	134	378

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For the purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes S. 657 will be enacted near the start of fiscal year 2014, that the estimated authorization amounts will be appropriated near the start of each fiscal year, and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for similar and existing programs.

Under S. 657, the Department of State would be required to report annually to the Congress on inhumane conditions in foreign prisons in at least 30 countries that either receive U.S. assistance or have prison conditions that the Secretary has determined raise serious human rights or humanitarian concerns. The department and USAID would be authorized to furnish assistance to eliminate such inhumane conditions. The reports would detail those conditions as well as efforts undertaken by those countries and the United States to improve prison conditions. The department would consult regularly with countries that are not making significant progress and would have the authority to restructure or reduce assistance to those governments. Foreign Service officers who would assess or report on prison conditions would be required to undergo additional training. Finally, the bill would require the Secretary to designate a senior official to coordinate implementation of the bill.

Foreign Assistance

In 2012, the department and USAID provided \$126 million to improve prison conditions in 15 countries—an average of \$8.4 million per country. CBO expects that under the bill the department would expand that effort by furnishing assistance to an additional 15 countries. After adjusting the average assistance per country in 2012 for inflation, CBO estimates that

the two agencies would require additional appropriations of \$131 million in 2014 and \$685 million over the 2014-2018 period. Assuming appropriation of those estimated amounts, CBO estimates that implementing that assistance would have discretionary costs of \$369 million over the 2014-2018 period (the remainder would be spent after 2018).

Administrative Expenses

Based on information from the department, CBO estimates that it would need the equivalent of six additional full-time employees (FTEs) to implement the bill: three domestic FTEs at an average cost of \$195,000 in 2014 and three overseas FTEs at an average cost of \$384,000 in 2014. We estimate that costs associated with training and travel would be about \$150,000 each year. In total, CBO estimates that the administrative costs of implementing S. 657 would total \$9 million over the 2014-2018 period, assuming appropriation of the estimated amounts.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 657 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Sunita D'Monte

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: J'nell L. Blanco

Impact on the Private Sector: Marin Burnett

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Theresa Gullo

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis