



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 21, 2016

### H.R. 4427 An act to amend section 203 of the Federal Power Act

*As passed by the House of Representatives on March 14, 2016*

Under the Federal Power Act, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) oversees and regulates interstate transmission of electricity, natural gas, oil, and a variety of other energy-related activities. Under section 203 of that act, public utilities subject to its provisions must seek FERC's approval before engaging in certain transactions, including corporate mergers and consolidations of facilities. Currently, FERC must review all such mergers and consolidations. H.R. 4427 would amend that section to specify that only mergers and consolidations involving facilities valued at more than \$10 million would require FERC's approval.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4427 would have no significant net effect on the federal budget. Based on information from FERC about average annual costs to review mergers and consolidations under current law, CBO estimates that specifying a minimum threshold for such reviews would reduce the agency's administrative costs by less than \$150,000 annually. However, because FERC recovers 100 percent of its costs through user fees, any change in that agency's costs (which are controlled through annual appropriation acts) would be offset by an equal change in fees that the commission charges, resulting in no net change in federal spending.

Because H.R. 4427 would not affect direct spending or revenues, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4427 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

H.R. 4427 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 Megan Carroll. The estimate was approved by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.