



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

May 2, 2011

H.R. 515
Belarus Democracy and Human Rights Act of 2011

As amended by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on April 14, 2011

H.R. 515 would amend the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004 to:

- Increase the number of individuals who would be denied entry into the United States,
- Expand a reporting requirement to include certain information on weapons-related training and censorship or surveillance of the Internet, and
- Expand the conditions under which sanctions against the government of Belarus may be lifted.

CBO estimates that enacting the bill would increase direct spending and decrease revenues; therefore pay-as-you-go procedures apply. But we estimate those effects would not be significant. In addition, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2012-2016 period, assuming the availability of appropriated funds.

Enacting this legislation could affect the collection and spending of visa fees by the Departments of State and Homeland Security. Most visa fees are retained by those two agencies and spent (a form of direct spending), but some are remitted to the Treasury as revenues. By increasing the number of individuals barred from entry into the United States, the bill could lower the collection and spending of visa fees. However, based on information from the Department of State, CBO expects the bill would affect few people and we estimate that those effects would not be significant.

The bill would direct the President to use existing appropriations to prepare the required report. The Department of State receives two-year funding and CBO expects that it would use funding received in 2011 to prepare the report in 2012. CBO estimates that those costs, which would be direct spending, would be less than \$500,000 in 2012. Because no funds are currently available for subsequent years, CBO further estimates that implementing the reporting requirement over the 2013-2016 period would cost less than \$500,000, assuming the availability of appropriated funds.

Finally, CBO estimates that the cost of monitoring the new conditions under which sanctions might be lifted would be less than \$500,000 over the 2012-2016 period, assuming the availability of appropriated funds.

H.R. 515 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 Sunita D'Monte. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.