



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 29, 2007

H.R. 1716 **Green Energy Education Act of 2007**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Science and Technology
on May 23, 2007*

H.R. 1716 would authorize the Secretary of Energy to transfer funds to the National Science Foundation (NSF) for undergraduate and graduate education programs related to energy research and development and the design and construction of high-performance buildings. High-performance buildings, as defined by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, are those that optimize energy efficiency, durability, life-cycle performance, and occupants' productivity. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1716 would have no significant cost over the next five years. Enacting this legislation would not affect revenues and would have no significant impact on direct spending.

Section 3 would authorize the Secretary to transfer funds to NSF's Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) program. IGERT is an NSF-wide effort to provide funding to universities that offer stipend support and tuition allowances to students in science and engineering. Currently, NSF plans to allocate about \$67 million to IGERT in 2007. Under the bill, any funds transferred to IGERT would be used for activities related to energy research and development.

Section 4 would provide similar authority to the Secretary of Energy to transfer funds to NSF programs that improve undergraduate and graduate education in engineering and architecture. Funds transferred under this authority would be used to develop curricula, implement laboratory activities and training, and design projects related to the design and construction of high-performance buildings.

While H.R. 1716 would provide the authority to transfer funds from the Department of Energy to NSF, the bill would not authorize any additional appropriations and thus would not affect the total amount available to be spent. CBO expects that the transfer of any funds under the legislation would not significantly change the rate of expenditure of those funds—either of funds already appropriated (which would be direct spending) or of sums that would be appropriated in the future. As such, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1716 would have no significant effect on outlays over the next five years.

H.R. 1716 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. The bill would benefit public institutions of higher education that participate in activities to develop undergraduate and graduate curricula for interdisciplinary engineering and architecture education. Any costs those institutions might incur would result from complying with conditions of federal assistance.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Daniel Hoople. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.