



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

November 6, 1997

H.R. 2578

A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to extend the visa waiver pilot program, and to provide for the collection of data with respect to the number of nonimmigrants who remain in the United States after the expiration of the period of stay authorized by the Attorney General

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on October 7, 1997

H.R. 2578 would extend the visa waiver pilot program through 1999 and require the Attorney General to collect data and report on nonimmigrant aliens who remain in the United States after their authorized period of stay. The program permits certain nonimmigrants to enter the United States for a 90-day period without obtaining a visa. It applies to roughly 10 million nonimmigrants who come from about 25 countries and generally do not stay in the United States longer than the law allows.

CBO estimates that H.R. 2578 would have no significant budgetary impact. Under current law, the visa fees affected by this bill are recorded as offsetting collections and are available to the Department of State for spending on consular affairs. This bill would result in forgone collections, but spending on consular affairs would be correspondingly lower. Because H.R. 2578 would affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. H.R. 2578 contains no intergovernmental mandates, as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The estimate was prepared by Sunita D'Monte. This estimate was approved by Paul N. Van de Water, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.