



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 20, 2008

H.R. 3546

A bill to authorize the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program at fiscal year 2006 levels through 2012

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on June 18, 2007

SUMMARY

H.R. 3546 would authorize the appropriation of \$1.095 billion annually for each fiscal year through 2012 for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program. Current law authorizes funding for this program through fiscal year 2009. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3546 would cost about \$3 billion over the 2008-2013 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or receipts.

H.R. 3546 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded mandates reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 3546 is shown in the following table. Current law authorizes the appropriation of \$1.095 billion for fiscal year 2006 and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2007 through 2009 for the JAG program. The Congress appropriated \$358 million for this program for 2008, however, and CBO estimated the current authorization level for 2009 by adjusting that amount for inflation.

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the amounts authorized by H.R. 3546 will be appropriated by the beginning of each fiscal year and that outlays will follow the historical spending rates for these activities. We also assume that there will be no additional appropriations enacted for fiscal year 2008 for the JAG program. The cost of this legislation falls within budget function 750 (administration of justice).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Spending Under Current Law						
Budget Authority/Authorization Level ^a	358	367	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	636	525	366	219	102	48
Proposed Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	728	1,095	1,095	1,095	0
Estimated Outlays	0	160	459	715	898	806
Spending Under H.R. 3546						
Budget Authority/Authorization Level ^a	358	1,095	1,095	1,095	1,095	0
Estimated Outlays	636	685	825	934	1,000	854

a. The 2008 level is the amount appropriated for that year for the JAG program.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 3546 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Assuming appropriation of authorized amounts, state, local, or tribal governments would receive an additional \$3 billion over the 2008-2013 period for law enforcement programs. Any costs to those governments would be incurred voluntarily as a condition of receiving federal assistance.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On March 26, 2007, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 231, a bill to authorize the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program at fiscal year 2006 levels through 2012, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on March 15, 2007. The two pieces of legislation are identical. The cost estimates for S. 231 and H.R. 3546 reflect different assumptions about the enactment date for the legislation.

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