



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

October 8, 1998

S. 2247

**A bill to permit the payment of medical expenses incurred by
the United States Park Police in the performance of duty
to be made directly by the National Park Service**

As passed by the Senate on October 7, 1998

CBO estimates that enacting S. 2247 would have no significant impact on federal spending. Because the bill could help the National Park Service (NPS) to pay certain employee expenses more efficiently, federal outlays could occur more rapidly than they have in the recent past. Any such effect would be temporary (in the first year or two following enactment), minor (less than \$100,000 in total), and subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Also, as a result of efficiencies resulting from this legislation, the NPS could realize small net savings in annual employment-related expenses in the long run, but CBO estimates that any such changes would be negligible.

S. 2247 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and may result in small administrative savings to the District of Columbia by removing the requirement for the District to process medical claims of U.S. Park Police.

S. 2247 would amend Title IV of the District of Columbia Code to state that the NPS will pay directly to vendors all eligible medical bills submitted for members of the United States Park Police (USPP) who are injured or become ill while performing their duties. Title IV currently requires the District of Columbia to make these payments directly to the vendors—for the USPP, for certain members of the U.S. Secret Service, and for members of its own Metropolitan Police and Fire Department. The title also authorizes appropriations from the U.S. Treasury of whatever amounts are needed to reimburse the District monthly for all medical bills that it has paid for federal employees.

Implementing S. 2247 would neither alter the financial obligations of the NPS to any USPP member nor affect the dollar amount owed by that agency for medical expenses of Park Police. Under S. 2247, the NPS would continue to pay the amounts—an average of about \$400,000 annually—but to different people, and possibly more quickly. CBO estimates that, in general, the NPS would be able to process claims for medical expenses more rapidly (and, in the long run, possibly more cheaply) under S. 2247 because the bill would eliminate the District as a third party in each transaction. This change would reduce the number of time-consuming steps in the payment process and help to expedite the payment of any backlog that the District might have remaining at the time of enactment. CBO estimates that the effect of paying off outstanding bills and implementing a more timely payment schedule would result in a one-time outlay increase of less than \$100,000 (assuming that appropriated funds are available for this purpose).

The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.