



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

November 10, 1997

S. 294
Officer Brian Gibson District of Columbia Police Protection Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs
on November 5, 1997*

CBO estimates that enacting S. 294 would not result in any significant cost to the federal government. Because enactment of S. 294 could affect direct spending and receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply to the bill. However, CBO estimates that any impact on direct spending and receipts would not be significant.

Enacting S. 294 would establish federal penalties for the murder or attempted murder of a District of Columbia law enforcement officer. Under the bill, first degree murder could be punishable by death or by life imprisonment. Because there have been very few murders involving law enforcement officers in the District of Columbia in recent years, CBO does not expect the Department of Justice to pursue many cases under this bill. Thus, we estimate that enacting S. 294 would not have a significant impact on the cost of federal law enforcement activity, federal defender services, or on the federal prison and court system. Any additional costs would be subject to the availability of appropriations.

Because anyone that is prosecuted and convicted of manslaughter could be subject to fines under S. 294, the government might collect additional fines if the bill is enacted. Collections of such fines are recorded in the budget as governmental receipts, or revenues, which are deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and spent in the following year. Any such collections from enacting S. 294 are likely to be negligible because it is not likely that the federal government would pursue many cases under this bill. Because any increase in direct spending would be the same as the amount of fines collected with a one-year lag, the additional direct spending also would be negligible.

Amending the federal criminal code to impose penalties for the murder or manslaughter of a law enforcement officer would not place an enforceable duty on the District of Columbia government. Consequently, this provision would not constitute an intergovernmental mandate as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA), and it would

have minimal impact on the budget of the District of Columbia. S. 294 contains no private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Susanne S. Mehlman (for federal costs), and Leo Lex (for the impact on the District of Columbia). This estimate was approved by Paul N. Van de Water, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.