



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 5, 2017

S. 419 **Public Safety Officers' Benefits Improvement Act of 2017**

As reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on March 9, 2017

S. 419 would require the Department of Justice (DOJ) to prepare semiannual reports for the Congress on DOJ programs that provide death and disability benefits to public safety officers and their families. The bill also would direct the Government Accountability Office (GAO), within two years of enactment, and biannually thereafter, to report to the Congress on DOJ's compliance with certain requirements of those programs. Based on an analysis of information from DOJ and the costs of similar activities by GAO, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost less than \$500,000 annually; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

S. 419 also would direct DOJ to consider certain evidence when evaluating petitions for death and disability benefits for public safety officers. The current one-time payment for death or permanent disability is about \$345,000 (death-benefit payments are classified in the budget as direct spending, while disability payments are subject to the availability of appropriated funds). Based on information from DOJ about how this would affect the evaluation process, CBO estimates that any effects on spending would not be significant in any year and over the 2017-2027 period.

Because enacting the bill could affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures apply; however, we estimate that any such effects would not be significant in any year. Enacting the bill would not affect revenues. CBO estimates that enacting S. 419 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

S. 419 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. The estimate was approved by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.