



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 30, 2009

H.R. 415 **Fallen Heroes Flag Act of 2009**

As ordered reported by the Committee on House Administration on March 25, 2009

H.R. 415 would authorize members of the U.S. House of Representatives to provide, free of charge, U.S. flags flown over the U.S. Capitol to the immediate families of fire fighters, law enforcement officers, and other rescue workers who died in the line of duty. (Currently, representatives may provide flags, but at a price to the requestor—usually about \$24 plus shipping costs.) The bill would require the Clerk of the House of Representatives to establish procedures, request forms, and guidelines for providing the flags and accompanying certificates.

Based on the current costs of obtaining and mailing flags and on the small number of likely recipients in any given year, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 415 would not have a significant impact on discretionary spending. Depending on whether the new regulations would allow families of individuals who died before the bill's enactment to request a flag, it is possible that the costs of providing flags could be higher in the first few years of the program (to process a potential backlog of such requests), but we estimate that, even in those years, total annual costs would be insignificant. The bill would have no effect on direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 415 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 contacts for this estimate are Matthew Pickford and Deborah Reis. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.