



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 12, 2009

H.R. 1604 **Universal Right to Vote by Mail Act of 2009**

As ordered reported by the Committee on House Administration on June 10, 2009

H.R. 1604 would amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to prohibit states, beginning in 2012, from imposing any additional conditions on eligible voters who request a mail-in ballot for federal elections other than deadlines for requesting and returning such a ballot. States also would be required to verify the signature on the absentee ballot by cross-checking it with the voter's signature on the official list of registered voters. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1604 would have no impact on the federal budget.

Section 4 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act excludes from the application of that act any legislative provisions that enforce the Constitutional right of individuals. CBO has determined that H.R. 1604 would fall within that exclusion because it would protect individuals' voting rights. Therefore, we have not reviewed the bill for mandates.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.