



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 18, 2009

H.R. 2728 **William Orton Law Library Improvement** **and Modernization Act**

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

H.R. 2728 would authorize the appropriation of \$3.5 million for the law library of the Library of Congress, and would establish a William Orton program to support the mission of the law library. The library could receive donations of funds and in-kind support, and could spend those funds (and the interest earned on them) without future appropriation. In addition, the bill would authorize appropriations equal to 40 percent of the donations received for support of the law library.

Based on the nature of previous donations in support of the law library and historical spending patterns, and assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2728 would cost \$3.5 million over the 2009-2013 period.

Because the bill would allow the Librarian to accept and spend donations for projects, enacting H.R. 2728 could affect direct spending, but gross outlays would be offset by the donations. In addition, the bill would allow the Librarian to spend any interest earned on the donations, though CBO expects that such interest would be negligible. Thus, CBO estimates enacting the bill would not have a significant net effect on the federal budget.

H.R. 2728 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 Christina Hawley Anthony. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.