



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

December 2, 2009

S. 1472 **Human Rights Enforcement Act of 2009**

As reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on November 6, 2009

CBO estimates that implementing S. 1472 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Enacting the bill could affect direct spending and revenues, but CBO estimates that any such effects also would not be significant.

S. 1472 would direct the Attorney General to establish a section within the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice (DOJ) to enforce the laws against serious human rights offenses. There are two offices in the Criminal Division that currently investigate and prosecute suspected human rights abusers, the Office of Special Investigations and the Domestic Security Section. Based on information from DOJ, CBO expects that the department would implement S. 1472 by combining these two offices. Thus, we estimate that the bill would not significantly increase DOJ spending on these activities.

S. 1472 also would broaden the coverage of current laws against genocide. Because those prosecuted and convicted under the bill could be subject to criminal fines, the federal government might collect additional fines if the legislation is enacted. Criminal fines are recorded as revenues, deposited in the Crime Victims Fund, and later spent. CBO expects that any additional revenues and direct spending would not be significant because of the small number of cases likely to be affected.

S. 1472 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 Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.