



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

February 25, 2010

### **S. 1749** **Cell Phone Contraband Act of 2010**

*As reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
on February 2, 2010*

CBO estimates that implementing S. 1749 would have no significant cost to the federal government. Enacting the legislation could affect direct spending and revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. However, CBO estimates that the net effects would be insignificant for each year.

S. 1749 would prohibit the possession of cell phones or similar wireless devices by federal prisoners (use of cell phones by prisoners is currently banned in the federal correctional system). Because the bill would establish a new crime, the government might be able to pursue cases that it otherwise would not be able to prosecute. CBO expects that S. 1749 would apply to a relatively small number of offenders so any increase in costs for law enforcement, court proceedings, or prison operations would not be significant. Any such costs would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Because those prosecuted and convicted under S. 1749 could be subject to criminal fines, the federal government might collect additional amounts if the legislation is enacted. Criminal fines are recorded as revenues, deposited in the Crime Victims Fund, and later spent. CBO estimates that any additional revenues and direct spending would not be significant because of the small number of cases likely to be affected.

S. 1749 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.