



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

July 1, 2010

**S. 3196
Pre-Election Presidential Transition Act of 2010**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs on May 17, 2010*

SUMMARY

S. 3196 would amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (PTA) to direct the General Services Administration (GSA) to provide certain services and facilities to eligible presidential and vice-presidential candidates before the general election for president. Under the bill, presidential candidates could solicit donations to pay for the additional travel and staff expenses prior to a possible transition to the presidency. In addition, the legislation would authorize the appropriation of funds to establish a council to facilitate the transition between administrations.

CBO estimates that implementing S. 3196 would increase the administrative costs of GSA and a number of federal agencies by \$5 million over the 2012-2013 period, assuming the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

S. 3196 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 3196 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation would fall within budget functions 750 (administration of justice) and 800 (general government).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2011-2015
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	5	0	0	0	5
Estimated Outlays	0	3	2	0	0	5

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 3196 will be enacted this year and that spending will follow historical patterns for similar activities.

The PTA authorizes appropriations for GSA to provide suitable office space, staff compensation, and other services associated with the presidential transition process. Most of such support is provided after the election of a president. In 2009, about \$9 million was appropriated for the cost of the most recent transition. S. 3196 would require GSA to provide those transitional services to presidential candidates after major political parties hold their nominating conventions.

Based on information from GSA, the Office of Personnel Management, the Department of Homeland Security, and other security-related agencies, CBO estimates that implementing S. 3196 would increase administrative costs prior to the next presidential election by about \$5 million over the 2012-2013 period, assuming the availability of appropriated funds. The cost of the legislation could vary depending on whether an incumbent president is a candidate and the number of candidates that are eligible to receive funds from the Presidential Election Campaign Fund. That amount would cover additional office space, communications costs, training sessions, and the initiation of security clearances for potential administration officials.

Section 3 would authorize appropriations for the outgoing administration to establish a council to facilitate the transition between administrations. Based on information from the White House and the Office of Management and Budget, this provision would codify Executive Order 13476 and current practice. CBO estimates that this provision would cost less than \$500,000 during each presidential election cycle.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 3196 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

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