



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 25, 2010

S. 2971 **Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
on April 27, 2010*

SUMMARY

S. 2971 would authorize appropriations for the Department of State, international broadcasting activities, international assistance programs, and related agencies. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$24.3 billion over the 2011-2015 period, assuming appropriation of the specified and estimated amounts. In addition, CBO estimates that enacting the bill would increase direct spending by \$53 million over the 2011-2020 period.¹ Enacting the bill would not affect revenues.

Pay-as-you-go procedures apply because enacting the legislation would affect direct spending.

S. 2971 would impose intergovernmental and private-sector mandates, as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA), by eliminating an existing right of action and establishing additional circumstances under which entities could be compelled to provide testimony or documents. It also would impose an additional intergovernmental mandate by preempting state liability laws. CBO estimates that the total costs to public and private entities would fall below the annual thresholds established in UMRA for intergovernmental and private-sector mandates (\$70 million and \$141 million in 2010, respectively, adjusted annually for inflation).

1. Different time periods apply in the Senate for its pay-as-you-go rule. CBO estimates that enacting S. 2971 would increase direct spending by \$22 million over the 2011-2014 period and \$48 million over the 2011-2019 period.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 2971 is shown in Table 1. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 150 (international affairs), 300 (natural resources and environment), 550 (health), 600 (income security), and 750 (administration of justice).

TABLE 1. BUDGETARY IMPACT OF S. 2971, THE FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2010 AND 2011

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2011-
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2015
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATON						
Department of State and Related Agencies						
Authorization Level	19,235	0	0	0	0	19,235
Estimated Outlays	12,260	3,952	1,700	607	274	18,793
Personnel Programs						
Estimated Authorization Level	226	828	901	969	1,017	3,942
Estimated Outlays	159	623	839	937	994	3,552
Contributions to International Organizations						
Estimated Authorization Level	1,298	7	7	7	7	1,326
Estimated Outlays	1,298	7	7	7	7	1,326
Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance						
Estimated Authorization Level	100	100	100	100	100	500
Estimated Outlays	10	100	100	100	100	410
Radio Free Asia						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	38	39	40	41	158
Estimated Outlays	0	32	38	40	41	151
Science and Technology Fellowships						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	6	6	6	6	24
Estimated Outlays	0	3	5	6	6	20
Office for Global Women’s Issues						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	3	3	3	3	12
Estimated Outlays	0	2	3	3	3	11
Foreign Assistance Awareness and Dialogue						
Authorization Level	1	1	1	1	1	5
Estimated Outlays	*	*	1	1	1	3

(Continued)

TABLE 1. CONTINUED

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2011- 2015
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
Other Provisions						
Estimated Authorization Level	1	1	1	1	1	5
Estimated Outlays	1	1	1	1	1	5
Total Changes in Spending Subject to Appropriation						
Estimated Authorization Level	20,861	984	1,058	1,127	1,176	25,207
Estimated Outlays	13,728	4,720	2,694	1,702	1,427	24,271
CHANGES IN DIRECT SPENDING ^a						
Millennium Challenge Corporation						
Estimated Budget Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	5	5	5	5	5	25
Reimbursements for Use of Government Vehicles						
Estimated Budget Authority	*	*	*	*	*	2
Estimated Outlays	*	*	*	*	*	2
Visa Ineligibility						
Estimated Budget Authority	*	*	*	*	*	*
Estimated Outlays	*	*	*	*	*	*
Total Changes in Direct Spending						
Estimated Budget Authority	*	*	*	*	*	2
Estimated Outlays	5	5	5	5	5	27

Notes: * = less than \$500,000.

Components may not add to totals because of rounding.

- a. In addition to the changes in direct spending shown above, S. 2971 would have effects beyond 2015. CBO estimates that over the 2011-2020 period, the bill would increase direct spending by \$53 million.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

Most of the bill's budgetary impact would stem from authorizations for the Department of State, international broadcasting activities, international assistance programs, and related

agencies. For most programs, the bill would authorize specific amounts for 2011 that are identical to the President's request for 2011. The bill also contains provisions that would affect direct spending, primarily from increasing spending from existing appropriations.

For this estimate, CBO assumes the legislation will be enacted near the beginning of fiscal year 2011, that the specified and estimated authorizations will be appropriated each fiscal year, and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for similar and existing programs. (CBO also assumes that no further appropriations will be provided for those purposes in the current fiscal year, which ends on September 30, 2010.)

Spending Subject to Appropriation

The bill contains provisions that would affect spending for Department of State personnel, contributions to international organizations and commissions, international assistance programs, and related agencies. In total, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$24.3 billion over the 2011-2015 period, assuming appropriation of the specified and estimated amounts.

Department of State and Related Agencies. Most of the authorizations of appropriations in Title VI of the bill would cover the operating expenses and other ongoing programs and activities of the Department of State, the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG), the Peace Corps, and related agencies—a total of \$19.3 billion in 2011. CBO estimates that, in total, implementing those provisions would cost almost \$19 billion over the 2011-2015 period, assuming appropriation of the specified amounts. In 2010, \$19.6 billion was provided for those purposes.

Administration of Foreign Affairs. Section 601 would authorize the appropriation of \$12.4 billion in 2011 for the department's operating expenses and programs. We estimate that implementing those provisions would cost almost \$12 billion over the 2011-2015 period.

Contributions to International Organizations and Commissions. Sections 602 and 603 would authorize the appropriation of almost \$4 billion in 2011 for contributions to international organizations, international peacekeeping activities, and various international commissions. In total, CBO estimates that making those contributions would cost almost \$4 billion over the 2011-2015 period.

The bill also would authorize such additional amounts as may be necessary in 2011 to offset adverse fluctuations in foreign exchange rates that might affect contributions to international organizations. Currency fluctuations are difficult to project. Therefore, CBO estimates no additional amounts to offset adverse currency fluctuations.

Migration and Refugee Assistance. Section 604 would authorize the appropriation of more than \$1.6 billion in 2011 for migration and refugee assistance programs. CBO estimates that implementing those programs would cost more than \$1.6 billion over the 2011-2015 period.

International Broadcasting Programs. Section 611 would authorize the appropriation of a total of \$769 million in 2011 for international broadcasting operations and capital improvements. In total, CBO estimates that implementing those programs would cost \$765 million over the 2011-2015 period.

Peace Corps. Section 621 would authorize the appropriation of \$446 million in 2011 to carry out the purposes of the Peace Corps, to assess how best to reform and expand the size of the Peace Corps, and to develop and report on a strategic plan towards those ends. CBO estimates that implementing the Peace Corps program would cost \$444 million over the 2011-2015 period.

Centers and Foundations. Section 605 would authorize the appropriation for 2011 of \$105 million for the National Endowment for Democracy, \$16 million for the Asia Foundation, and \$11 million for the East-West Center. In total, CBO estimates that providing funding for those centers and foundations would cost \$132 million over the 2011-2013 period.

Personnel Programs. Several provisions of the bill would affect personnel costs at the Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and other agencies. As shown in table 2, CBO estimates that implementing those provisions would cost almost \$3.6 billion over the 2011-2015 period, assuming appropriation of the estimated amounts.

Pay for Overseas Postings. Section 212 would increase compensation for Foreign Service officers (FSOs) who are not members of the Senior Foreign Service and are posted overseas. Under current law, FSOs based in the United States receive comparability pay in addition to their base pay, to reduce the disparity between federal and nonfederal workers. FSOs who are posted overseas only receive a portion of those amounts in addition to their base pay. (Members of the Senior Foreign Service are compensated under a pay-for-performance system that does not differentiate pay by posting).

Under the bill, starting in fiscal year 2011, FSOs who are posted overseas would be paid the same comparability pay received by FSOs posted in Washington, D.C. Such pay represented about 19 percent of total basic pay in 2010. (Section 212 would not increase retirement benefits, because FSOs who retire from overseas postings have their annuities calculated as though their official duty station had been Washington, D.C.)

Over 85 percent of FSOs—roughly 15,000—work for the Department of State. The President’s request for 2011, which is identical to the amounts authorized in section 601 for that year, already includes funding for comparability pay for the Department of State’s FSOs for 2011. Thus, for the Department of State, we only address additional pay for the 2012-2015 period.

TABLE 2. COMPONENTS OF DISCRETIONARY SPENDING FOR PERSONNEL PROGRAMS UNDER S. 2971

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2011-
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2015
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Pay for Overseas Postings						
Estimated Authorization Level	61	435	485	543	610	2,134
Estimated Outlays	43	323	470	526	590	1,952
Foreign Service Expansion						
Estimated Authorization Level	164	362	369	377	389	1,661
Estimated Outlays	115	279	332	366	377	1,469
Personnel Service Contractors						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	15	31	32	0	78
Estimated Outlays	0	10	23	29	10	72
Reemployment of Annuitants						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	15	15	16	17	63
Estimated Outlays	0	10	13	15	16	54
Enhanced Personnel Authorities for Inspector General of USAID						
Estimated Authorization Level	1	1	1	1	1	6
Estimated Outlays	1	1	1	1	1	5
Total Changes in Personnel Programs						
Estimated Authorization Level	226	828	901	969	1,017	3,942
Estimated Outlays	159	623	839	937	994	3,552

Note: Components may not add to totals because of rounding.

Based on information from the department, CBO estimates that roughly 9,300 FSOs are posted overseas in 2010 and have an average basic pay of about \$77,000. In comparison, FSOs posted in Washington, D.C., have an average basic pay of about \$94,800—a difference of almost \$18,000 a year. After adjusting for expected growth in comparability pay (on average, about 8 percent a year over the past five years), inflation, and anticipated growth in the Foreign Service (as specified in section 201 below), CBO estimates that fully eliminating the difference between pay for overseas and D.C. postings for those FSOs would cost \$150 million in 2012. That increase in basic pay also would lead to an increase in other benefits paid to FSOs, such as life insurance, health insurance, hardship pay, and danger pay. According to the Department of State, those types of compensation have historically averaged about 71 percent of basic pay. Therefore, CBO estimates that under the bill, in 2012, the department would pay an additional \$107 million in other compensation, for a total cost of \$257 million that year and \$1.6 billion over the 2012-2015 period.

Slightly more than 2,000 FSOs are employed by USAID and other agencies; CBO estimates roughly 1,500 are currently posted overseas. After adjusting for expected growth in comparability pay, inflation, and anticipated growth in USAID's Foreign Service (as specified in section 201 below), CBO estimates that fully eliminating the difference between pay for overseas and D.C. postings for those FSOs would cost \$25 million in basic pay and an additional \$18 million in other compensation, for a total cost in 2011 of \$43 million and \$356 million over the 2011-2015 period.

In total, CBO estimates the costs for implementing this section would total almost \$2 billion over the 2011-2015 period, in addition to the amounts authorized under section 601.

Foreign Service Expansion. Section 201 would authorize the Department of State and USAID to hire additional FSOs. The increase proposed for 2010 (750 additional FSOs for the Department of State and 350 additional FSOs for USAID) is consistent with amounts provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010 (Public Law 111-17). CBO estimates no additional funding would be provided this year for Foreign Service expansion.

The bill would authorize the Department of State to hire 750 additional FSOs for fiscal year 2011. The President's request for 2011 for the department's operating expenses includes funding for 410 additional FSOs and section 601 of the bill authorizes the appropriation of the necessary amounts. CBO expects that the department would hire the remaining 340 FSOs in 2012. Adjusting for inflation beyond 2011, CBO estimates that implementing that provision would cost \$810 million over the 2012-2015 period.

The proposed increase of 350 additional FSOs for USAID for fiscal year 2011 is greater than the President's request for 200 additional FSOs for 2011. To cover the salaries and other personnel expenses of 350 junior and mid-level FSOs, CBO estimates this provision would require appropriations of \$131 million in 2011. Because USAID also would need to increase its overseas office space to accommodate this increase in the workforce, CBO estimates an additional authorization of appropriations of \$33 million would be necessary for overseas capital space expansion. Adjusting for inflation, CBO estimates that implementing that provision would increase personnel costs for USAID by \$660 million over the 2011-2015 period.

After adjusting for inflation, CBO estimates the costs for implementing this section would total almost \$1.5 billion over the 2011-2015 period, in addition to the amounts authorized under section 601.

Personal Service Contractors. Section 228 would establish a four-year pilot program allowing the department to hire up to 200 contractors (at any one time) to meet new or urgent needs. The amounts required to implement the programs in 2011 are included in the authorization of appropriations in section 601; CBO estimates additional amounts would be required beginning in 2012 for this program. Based on information from the department, CBO estimates that the department would hire 50 contractors in 2011 at an average annual cost of \$150,000. We expect those costs per contractor would increase with inflation in subsequent years and that, under the pilot program, the department would employ a total of 100 contractors in 2012 and 200 contractors each year in 2013 and 2014. On that basis, CBO estimates that implementing this provision would cost \$72 million over the 2011-2015 period, in addition to the amounts authorized under section 601.

Reemployment of Annuitants. Section 223 would grant the department greater flexibility in rehiring Foreign Service annuitants on a temporary basis for positions that are hard to fill. Under current law, when reemployed annuitants serve in Iraq, Pakistan, or Afghanistan, the department may waive requirements prohibiting those individuals from receiving their annuity. That authority expires in 2010. The bill would permanently extend the authority and broaden it by deleting the restriction that employees must be serving in Iraq, Pakistan, or Afghanistan. The amounts required to implement this provision in 2011 are included in the authorization of appropriations in section 601, and CBO estimates additional amounts would be required beginning in 2012.

Based on information from the department, CBO estimates that 30 additional annuitants would be employed under the bill and posted overseas, at an annual cost of \$500,000 each (that amount includes costs for basic pay, travel, family support, benefits, special pay such as hardship pay, and housing). After adjusting for inflation, CBO estimates that

implementing this section would cost \$54 million over the 2011-2015 period, in addition to the amounts authorized under section 601.

Enhanced Personnel Authorities for the Inspector General of USAID. Three provisions in section 406 would enhance personnel authorities for USAID's Office of Inspector General (OIG). In total, after adjusting for inflation, CBO estimates that implementing this section would cost \$5 million over the 2011-2015 period.

First, it would provide the OIG with the flexibility to temporarily reemploy annuitants for positions in Iraq, Pakistan, and Afghanistan that are hard to fill. This authority would expire at the beginning of fiscal year 2012, although annuitants reemployed before that date would be allowed to continue their employment through 2013. Based on information from the OIG, CBO estimates that the office would reemploy five annuitants at an annual average cost of about \$110,000 per annuitant.

Second, section 406 would authorize the OIG to hire personal service contractors so long as such persons do not exceed five percent of total office personnel. Based on information from the OIG, CBO estimates that the office would hire five contractors at an annual average cost of about \$110,000 per contractor.

Finally, section 406 would require pay parity for FSOs serving as criminal investigators in the OIG with like personnel at other agencies. Based on information from the OIG, CBO estimates that additional personnel payments to provide such parity would total less than \$500,000 a year and total about \$1 million over the 2011-2015 period.

Contributions to International Organizations. In addition to the amounts authorized in section 602 for contributions to international organizations in 2011, section 302 would authorize the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary to synchronize assessed contributions to international organizations to the budget year used by those organizations. Under current law, such contributions are often a year late. Based on information from the Department of State, CBO estimates that implementing this provision would cost \$1.3 billion in 2011, assuming appropriation of the estimated amounts. There would be no subsequent costs once the payments were synchronized.

Section 308 would authorize the President to make assessed contributions to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). Section 305 would authorize the Secretary of State to facilitate the readmission and participation of the U.S. in the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and to make contributions to meet the obligations of membership. The authorization of appropriations in section 602 includes \$5 million in 2011 for contributions to IRENA, but does not include funding for the IPU. The department expects that assessed contributions to the IPU would be \$2 million a year over

the 2011-2015 period. After adjusting for inflation and assuming appropriation of the estimated amounts, CBO estimates implementing those two provisions would cost \$30 million over the 2011-2015 period, in addition to amounts authorized in section 602.

Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance. Section 114 would raise the limit on appropriations for the Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance (ERMA) Fund from \$100 million to \$200 million (when added to amounts previously appropriated to the Fund but not yet obligated). The effect of section 114 would be to authorize the appropriation of an additional \$100 million to the ERMA Fund in any fiscal year. CBO estimates that providing those additional amounts to the ERMA Fund would cost \$410 million over the 2011-2015 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts.

Radio Free Asia. Section 124 would permanently extend the authorization for Radio Free Asia (RFA). Under current law, the authorization for RFA expires at the end of fiscal year 2010. The authorization of appropriations for international broadcasting operations in section 611 includes amounts for RFA in 2011. Based on the President's request for 2011 and after adjusting for inflation, CBO estimates that implementing this section would cost \$151 million over the 2012-2015 period, assuming appropriation of the estimated amounts.

Science and Technology Fellowships. Section 128 would authorize the Secretary of State to establish new educational or cultural exchange programs or expand existing programs for individuals in the fields of science, medicine, research, and academia. Based on information from the State Department, CBO estimates that the department would expand participation in existing exchange programs by about 100 people at an annual cost of \$40,000 per participant. Additionally, section 128 would authorize the Secretary of State to award up to \$2 million a year for grants and cooperative agreements related to science and technology fellowship programs. The amounts required to implement both programs in 2011 are included in the authorization of appropriations in section 601, and CBO estimates additional amounts would be required beginning in 2012. In total, and adjusting for inflation, CBO estimates that implementing those programs would cost \$20 million over the 2011-2015 period, assuming appropriation of the estimated amounts.

Office for Global Women's Issues. Section 230 would establish a new office focused on global women's issues, led by an Ambassador-at-Large who would be appointed by the President. Such an office already exists and the President has requested \$3 million in funding for the office in 2011. That amount is included in the authorization of appropriations for the department's operating expenses in section 601. Because no amounts are authorized for future years, CBO estimates additional amounts would be required beginning in 2012. Thus, CBO estimates implementing this section would cost \$11 million over the 2012-2015 period, assuming appropriation of the estimated amounts.

Foreign Assistance Awareness and Dialogue. Section 403 would authorize the Administrator of USAID to spend an additional \$1 million a year for public relations efforts on behalf of foreign assistance. CBO estimates that implementing this section would cost \$3 million over the 2011-2015 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts.

Other Provisions. The bill contains several provisions, primarily affecting personnel and reporting requirements, that CBO estimates, if taken individually, would have an insignificant effect on spending, but in total would increase spending by \$1 million a year, assuming the availability of appropriated funds.

Direct Spending

In addition to the discretionary authorizations discussed above, the bill contains provisions that would both increase and decrease direct spending, primarily from changes to assistance authorized for the Millennium Challenge Corporation. In total, CBO estimates that enacting the bill would increase direct spending by \$27 million over the 2011-2015 period and \$53 million over the 2011-2020 period.

Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). Section 405 would increase the pool of low-income countries eligible for assistance from MCC. It also would extend the time period (from five to seven years) for which aid could be provided under agreements between the United States and recipient countries. In addition, it would allow for multiple agreements with one recipient country to be in place concurrently whereas under current law the MCC can only have one signed agreement in effect with a country at any given time. CBO estimates that those provisions would likely increase spending from funds previously appropriated for the MCC. Over the 2004-2010 period, the Congress has appropriated more than \$9.4 billion for the MCC, though only about \$2.5 billion has been spent through June of 2010. Based on information from the MCC, CBO estimates that enacting those provisions would increase direct spending by \$25 million over the 2011-2015 period and \$50 million over the 2011-2020 period.

Reimbursements for Use of Government Vehicles. Section 117 would allow the Department of State to retain reimbursements received for the use of vehicles owned or leased by the federal government, and to use those reimbursements to maintain, purchase, lease, or operate such vehicles. Under current law, those reimbursements are deposited in the general fund as offsetting receipts. Extrapolating from a department survey of those reimbursements, CBO estimates that enacting this provision would increase direct spending by about \$350,000 each year, for a total of about \$4 million over the 2011-2020 period.

Visa Ineligibility. Section 143 would reduce the number of people eligible for visas to enter the United States. Under current law, foreign nationals involved in child abduction cases are generally ineligible for visas, but there are a few exceptions. S. 2971 would delete one such exception. CBO estimates that enacting this provision would affect few people and decrease direct spending on federal assistance programs (such as Medicaid) by less than \$500,000 each year and by about \$1 million over the 2011-2020 period.

Other Provisions. Several provisions in the bill would have insignificant effects on direct spending, primarily because they would affect few individuals or because they authorize both the collection and spending of funds so that the net budgetary impact would be small.

- Section 101 would allow the State Department's International Litigation Fund to collect and spend awards of costs and attorney's fees that result from decisions by international tribunals.
- Section 127 would allow the Broadcasting Board of Governors to collect and spend reimbursements received from the Archivist of the U.S. for costs related to providing master copies of BBG products.
- Section 130 would revoke the status of the Vietnam Education Foundation as an independent federal entity and incorporate it into the State Department. The foundation is funded by repayments of federal loans made to Vietnam (which are considered offsetting receipts). It receives \$5 million a year and spends the entire amount each year. There would be no significant change in either the receipts or spending for this activity.
- Section 144 would exempt certain children being adopted from overseas from vaccination requirements, and could affect the spending of immigration fees and use of federal assistance programs.
- Section 147 would allow certain siblings of children being adopted from overseas to enter the United States, and could affect the spending of immigration fees and use of federal assistance programs.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS

The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 establishes budget reporting and enforcement procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or revenues. S. 2971 would increase outlays from existing appropriations and would allow the Department of State to retain and

spend a small amount of collections. The net changes in outlays that are subject to those pay-as-you-go procedures are shown in the following table.

CBO Estimate of Pay-As-You-Go Effects for S. 2971, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on April 27, 2010

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars												2010-	2010-
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2015	2020	
NET INCREASE OR DECREASE (-) IN THE DEFICIT														
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact	0	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	27	53	

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE SECTOR IMPACT

The bill would impose intergovernmental and private-sector mandates, as defined in UMRA, but CBO estimates that the total costs to public and private entities would fall below the annual thresholds established in UMRA intergovernmental and private-sector mandates (\$70 million and \$141 million in 2010 respectively, adjusted annually for inflation).

Mandates that Apply to Public and Private Sector Entities

Immunity from Civil Liability. The bill would add a new circumstance under which members of the BBG would be exempt from civil liability. Granting such protections would impose a mandate on public and private entities by eliminating the right to file a claim against BBG members for activities related to the Middle East Broadcasting Networks. Because civil suits by public or private entities are rarely filed against BBG members, CBO estimates that the cost of the mandate from any forgone compensation for damages would be small.

Administrative Subpoenas. The bill would expand the circumstances for which an administrative subpoena could be issued by the Secretary of State, and consequently increase the number of public and private entities that could have to provide information or testimony. CBO expects that the increase in the number of subpoenas issued would not be significant and estimates that the costs to public and private entities to comply with such subpoenas would be small.

Mandates that Apply to Public Entities Only

The bill would preempt state laws governing liability by extending the circumstances under which the BBG would be granted civil immunity. CBO estimates that the associated costs to state, local, and tribal governments would be small.

Other Impacts

The bill would establish a grant program for institutions of higher education in the United States to help implement graduate-level academic and public policy management leadership programs in Vietnam. Public colleges and universities would be eligible to receive grants under the program.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATES

On June 2, 2010, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 3104, a bill to permanently authorize Radio Free Asia, and for other purposes, as reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on May 25, 2010. S. 3104 is similar to section 124 of S. 2971 and their estimated costs are the same.

On May 14, 2010, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 1376, the International Adoption Simplification Act as reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on March 22, 2010. Section 2 of S. 1376 is similar to section 144 of S. 2971 and their estimated costs are the same.

On April 28, 2010, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 1382, the Peace Corps Improvement and Expansion Act of 2010 as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on April 13, 2010. S. 1382 would indefinitely authorize the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary whereas section 621 of S. 2971 would authorize appropriations for only 2011; thus, the estimated costs for S. 2971 are lower.

On June 4, 2009, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 2410, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on May 20, 2009. S. 2971 and H.R. 2410 contain several provisions that are similar and both would authorize appropriations for the Department of State, international broadcasting activities, international assistance programs, and related agencies. Title I of H.R. 2410 would primarily authorize appropriations for both 2010 and 2011 whereas Title VI of S. 2971 would primarily authorize appropriations for only 2011; thus, the estimated costs for S. 2971 are lower.

On May 18, 2009, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 838, a bill to provide for the appointment of United States Science Envoys as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on May 5, 2009. Section 128 of S. 2971 is similar to section 2 of S. 838; however, section 128 of S. 2971 also would authorize spending an additional \$2 million a year for science and technology fellowships and its estimated costs are correspondingly higher.

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