



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 13, 2010

S. 1684

Managing Arson Through Criminal History Act of 2010

As reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on July 22, 2010

SUMMARY

S. 1684 would direct the Department of Justice (DOJ) to make grants to states and other jurisdictions to establish registration programs for persons convicted of arson or bombing. The bill also would direct DOJ to establish a national arsonist and bomber registry and Web site.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1684 would cost \$17 million over the 2011-2015 period. This legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

S. 1684 would impose intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) on state and tribal governments. CBO estimates that the cost of complying with those mandates would fall well below the annual threshold established in UMRA for intergovernmental mandates (\$70 million in 2010, adjusted annually for inflation).

S. 1684 contains no private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1684 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 750 (administration of justice).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2011- 2015
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Grants to States, Territories, and Indian Tribes						
Estimated Authorization Level	2	3	3	3	3	14
Estimated Outlays	1	2	3	3	3	12
Additional DOJ Costs						
Estimated Authorization Level	1	1	1	1	1	5
Estimated Outlays	1	1	1	1	1	5
Total Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	3	4	4	4	4	19
Estimated Outlays	2	3	4	4	4	17

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted in 2010. CBO estimates that implementing S. 1684 would cost \$17 million over the 2011-2015 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary funds. CBO assumes that the estimated authorization amounts will be appropriated near the start of each fiscal year and that spending will follow the historical spending patterns for similar activities.

Grants to States, Territories, and Indian Tribes

S. 1684 would require states and U.S. territories to provide certain information about arsonists and bombers to the national registry maintained by DOJ. In addition, Indian tribes could opt to participate in the national registry; based on tribal participation in similar registration programs, we expect no more than 50 of the 550 tribes in the United States would do so. The legislation would require jurisdictions to notify convicted arsonists and bombers of their obligations to update certain registration information under the bill. In addition, S. 1684 would require those offenders to verify their registration information at least once a year. Based on the number of arsonists in the registry currently maintained by California and that state's share of the U.S. population, CBO estimates that 25,000 to 50,000 individuals nationwide would be affected by the bill's provisions.

We estimate that about 35 states and as many as 10 Indian tribes would need to hire a total of about 50 persons to verify residences and to manage and update the information required for the national registry. Assuming that the total annual salary and benefits for those positions would be, on average, \$60,000 in 2010, the cost for the additional staff would

reach approximately \$3 million annually by 2012. Thus, we estimate that it would cost a total of about \$12 million over the 2011-2015 period for DOJ to provide grants to jurisdictions to hire additional staff to satisfy the bill's requirements for the registration programs.

Additional DOJ Costs

S. 1684 would direct DOJ to establish a national registry and Web site for arsonists and bombers and to compile and update information from states and other jurisdictions. In addition, the legislation would require DOJ to develop software for states and other jurisdictions to help them comply with the bill's requirements. Based on information from the department, CBO estimates that those new responsibilities would cost about \$1 million annually over the 2011-2015 period, assuming the availability of appropriated funds.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

S. 1684 would impose intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA by requiring states to collect information from arsonists and bombers and provide that information to federal officials. Because states would need to collect information from relatively few individuals and because the Attorney General would provide the software necessary for jurisdictions to comply, CBO estimates that annual costs to those jurisdictions would total less than \$3 million. The bill also would require Indian tribes that choose not to establish registries of arsonists to enter into agreements with nearby states to provide such services. CBO estimates that the aggregate annual cost of those mandates would be small and well below the threshold established in UMRA for intergovernmental mandates (\$70 million in 2010, adjusted annually for inflation).

The bill would authorize grants to state and tribal governments to meet new federal requirements for registries. CBO estimates that grants to those governments would total \$12 million over the 2011-2015 period.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR

S. 1684 contains no private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

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