



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

November 3, 1997

**S. 1258**

**A bill to amend the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 to prohibit an alien who is not lawfully present in the United States from receiving assistance under that Act**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
on October 29, 1997*

CBO estimates that implementing S. 1258 would cost the federal government less than \$500,000 over the next year or two, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. S. 1258 would impose no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 and would impose no significant costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 1258 would prevent persons who are not lawfully present in the United States from receiving relocation payments or other assistance when real property they occupy is acquired by a federal agency or with federal financing. The bill would require the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to promulgate regulations within one year of enactment to implement the new law, including rules for determining whether a displaced person is lawfully present in the country and standards for judging when exceptions should be made for unusual hardship. DOT also would be responsible for providing agencies with information on proper implementation of the law through training and technical assistance.

Based on information provided by DOT and other agencies, and assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that DOT and other federal agencies would spend less than \$500,000 to develop the necessary regulations, guidelines, and training programs to implement the legislation. We expect that the bill would have little or no effect on total property acquisition costs because so few transactions are likely to involve aliens who reside illegally in this country.

The bill would place a new requirement on state, local, and in some circumstances, tribal entities carrying out programs or projects with federal financial assistance that result in the displacement of persons. As a condition of receiving such assistance, the affected entities

would have to determine whether displaced persons are lawfully present in the United States. Based on discussions with the U.S. Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and affected state and local agencies, CBO estimates that the additional administrative costs to state, local, and tribal governments would be minimal.

On June 20, 1997, CBO prepared a cost estimate for H.R. 849, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on June 11, 1997. The two bills are similar and the estimates are identical.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Deborah Reis (for federal costs), and Kristen Layman (for the state and local impact). This estimate was approved by Paul N. Van de Water, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.