



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

October 7, 2005

**H.R. 1400
Securing Aircraft Cockpits Against Lasers Act of 2005**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on September 29, 2005

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1400 would have no significant cost to the federal government. Enacting the bill could affect direct spending and revenues, but CBO estimates that any such effects would not be significant. H.R. 1400 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.

H.R. 1400 would establish a new federal crime for aiming the beam of a laser pointer at an aircraft or at the aircraft's flight path. Because the bill would establish a new offense, the government would be able to pursue cases that it otherwise would not be able to prosecute. We expect that H.R. 1400 would apply to a relatively small number of offenders, however, 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 H.R. 1400 could be subject to criminal fines, the federal government might collect additional fines if the legislation is enacted. Criminal fines are recorded as revenues, then deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and later spent. CBO expects that any additional revenues and direct spending would not be significant because of the small number of cases likely to be affected.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.