



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

November 27, 2001

**S. 1498**

**A bill to provide that federal employees, members of the foreign service, members of the uniformed services, family members and dependents of such employees and members, and other individuals may retain for personal use promotional items received as a result of official government travel**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs  
on November 14, 2001*

S. 1498 would allow federal employees, members of the foreign service, members of the uniformed services, family members and dependents of such employees, and other individuals to use frequent flyer miles and other travel benefits that they earn through official federal government travel for their own personal travel. Current law permits most federal employees to utilize such frequent travel programs only for official business. Because airlines award such benefits to the individual traveler rather than to the government, however, the benefits of frequent travel programs are rarely applied to official trips and have little effect on federal travel costs, according to a recent report by the General Accounting Office. Thus, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1498 would have no significant impact on the federal budget.

S. 1498 would not affect direct spending or receipts, so pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The bill 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.

On July 27, 2001, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for a similar bill, H.R. 2456, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Government Reform on July 25, 2001. On November 27, 2001, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 2456 as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs on November 14, 2001. All three pieces of legislation are similar and our cost estimates are the same.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.