



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

June 14, 2002

S. 1868

National Child Protection Improvement Act

As reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on May 23, 2002

SUMMARY

S. 1868 would authorize the appropriation of \$80 million for fiscal year 2003 and \$25 million annually over the 2004-2007 period for the Attorney General to establish the National Center for Volunteer Screening. This center would provide free background checks of volunteers working with children, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities and would serve as a national resource center and clearinghouse for information regarding volunteer screening.

The bill also would authorize the appropriation of \$5.1 million in 2003 and such sums as may be necessary over the 2004-2007 period for the Attorney General to make grants to states to improve fingerprint technology and criminal databases. In addition, S. 1868 would authorize the appropriation of \$1 million for 2003 and such sums as may be necessary through 2007 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation to support the activities of the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact Council.

CBO estimates that implementing S. 1868 would cost about \$200 million over the 2003-2007 period, subject to appropriation of the necessary funds. Enacting the bill also could affect direct spending, so pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but we estimate that any net effects would be insignificant for each year.

S. 1868 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). Any costs incurred by state, local, or tribal governments would result from complying with conditions of receiving federal grants.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1868 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				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Estimated Authorization Level	86	31	31	32	32
Estimated Outlays	53	53	31	32	32

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

CBO assumes that the authorized and estimated amounts will be appropriated by the start of each fiscal year and that outlays will follow the historical rate of spending for similar activities. For the unspecified authorizations for 2004 through 2007, CBO estimated the necessary levels of funding by adjusting the specified 2003 amounts for anticipated inflation.

In addition, S. 1868 would permit the National Center for Volunteer Screening to collect and spend fees to perform certain background checks for salaried employees working with children, the elderly, and the disabled. CBO estimates that any net effects on direct spending would be insignificant.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS

The Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act specifies pay-as-you-go procedures for legislation affecting direct spending and receipts. Those procedures would apply to S. 1868 because it could affect direct spending, but CBO estimates that any net changes in spending would not be significant in any year.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 1868 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. Any costs incurred by state, local, or tribal governments would result from complying with conditions of receiving federal grants.

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