



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

October 3, 1997

H.R. 2232
Radio Free Asia Act of 1997

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on International Relations
on September 29, 1997*

H.R. 2232 would authorize appropriations of \$50 million in 1998 and \$32 million in 1999 for broadcasting to China and North Korea and construction of broadcasting facilities. Assuming that authorized amounts would be appropriated by the start of each fiscal year and that outlays would follow historical spending patterns, CBO estimates that enacting the bill would raise spending by \$32 million in 1998 and \$81 million over the 1998-2002 period. The authorizations in this bill would be in addition to amounts provided in other legislation. H.R. 1757, as passed by the House of Representatives on June 11, 1997, would authorize \$415 million in 1998 and \$405 million in 1999 for broadcasting and construction of facilities. Together, H.R. 2232 and H.R. 1757 would raise annual funding for comparable activities by \$105 million in 1998 and \$77 million in 1999 over the amount provided in 1997. Because H.R. 2232 would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

The bill contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments. Section 5 of H.R. 2232, however, would impose a new private-sector mandate on two privately owned United States international broadcasting services, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and Radio Free Asia. The bill would require these organizations to produce and broadcast, by radio, television, and Internet, public service announcements regarding fugitives from the criminal justice system of the United States. Based on information provided by representatives of these organizations, CBO estimates that the direct cost of the new private-sector mandate would be well below the statutory threshold (\$100 million in 1996, adjusted annually for inflation) established in UMRA in any year.

The estimate of costs to the federal government was prepared by Sunita D'Monte. Lesley Frymier prepared the estimate of the private-sector mandate, and Pepper Santalucia assessed the impact on state, local, and tribal governments. This estimate was approved by Paul N. Van de Water, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.