

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 7, 2006

S. 2349 Legislative Transparency and Accountability Act of 2006

As reported by the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration on March 1, 2006

CBO estimates that enacting S. 2349 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Enacting the legislation could affect federal revenues by increasing collections of fines and penalties, but CBO estimates that any increase in such collections resulting from enactment of S. 2349 would not be significant. The legislation 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.

S. 2349 would make a number of changes to the Senate rules regarding lobbying. Major provisions include a requirement that all "earmarks" be identified clearly in spending bills, elimination of floor privileges for former Members who are lobbyists, a ban on all gifts from registered lobbyists and foreign agents (excluding meals), and new restrictions on trips and lodging provided from nongovernment sponsors.

On March 6, 2006, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 2128, the Lobbying Transparency and Accountability Act of 2006, as reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on March 3, 2006. The two pieces of legislation both deal with lobbying reform, but have different provisions. The cost estimates reflect those differences.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Deborah Reis and Matthew Pickford. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.