



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

November 27, 2001

H.R. 2456

An act to provide that federal employees may retain for personal use promotional items received as a result of travel taken in the course of employment

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

H.R. 2456 would allow federal employees to use frequent flyer miles and other travel benefits that they earn through official 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 H.R. 2456 would have no significant impact on the federal budget.

H.R. 2456 would not affect direct spending or receipts, so pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The act 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 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 estimated for S. 1498 as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs on November 14, 2001. These pieces of legislation are similar and our three cost estimates are identical.

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