



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

November 9, 2007

H.R. 2489 **Genocide Accountability Act of 2007**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on November 7, 2007

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2489 would have no significant cost to the federal government. Enacting the bill could affect direct spending and revenues, but CBO estimates that any such effects would not be significant.

H.R. 2489 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.

H.R. 2489 would broaden the coverage of current laws against genocide. The bill would establish federal jurisdiction over those crimes wherever they occur (existing law covers incidents within the United States). As a result, under the bill the government would be able to pursue cases that it otherwise would not be able to prosecute. We expect that H.R. 2489 would apply to a relatively small number of offenders, however, so any increase in costs for law enforcement, court proceedings, or prison operations would not be significant. Any such costs would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Because those prosecuted and convicted under H.R. 2489 could be subject to criminal fines, the federal government might collect additional fines if the legislation is enacted. Criminal fines are recorded as revenues, then deposited in the Crime Victims Fund, and later spent. CBO expects that any additional revenues and direct spending would not be significant because of the small number of cases affected.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. This estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.