



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

July 27, 1998

**H.R. 2592**

**Private Trustee Reform Act of 1997**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on July 21, 1998*

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2592 would result in no significant impact on the federal budget. Because this bill could affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but CBO expects that any such effects would be negligible. H.R. 2592 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The Executive Office for United States Trustees (U.S. Trustees) is responsible for administering and supervising private trustees. H.R. 2592 would enable private trustees to seek judicial review when disputes arise over actions taken by the executive office with regard to expenses of trustees and their assignment to and removal from cases. Based on information from the U.S. Trustees, CBO estimates that fewer than 20 cases involving such disputes would occur each year and that only a few such cases would eventually lead to judicial review. Thus, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2592 would not impose any significant additional costs on the federal court system and the U.S. Trustees.

Expenses associated with private trustees are paid through bankruptcy fees, and any fees not used by the private trustees are paid to the U.S. Trustee System Fund as offsetting collections. To the extent that access to the judicial process provided by this bill might enable private trustees to prevail in disputes regarding expenses, the U.S. Trustee System Fund could receive fewer offsetting collections. This potential loss of collections would reduce the amounts available for spending by the U.S. Trustees, but would result in no net change in outlays from direct spending. Furthermore, CBO expects that any loss of offsetting collections would not be significant because so few cases would reach judicial review each year.

The staff contact for this estimate is Susanne S. Mehlman. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.