



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

June 16, 2009

**H.R. 2510
Absentee Ballot Track, Receive, and Confirm Act**

As ordered reported by the Committee on House Administration on June 10, 2009

H.R. 2510 would authorize the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary for the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to award grants to states that choose to establish systems for tracking absentee ballots. Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$20 million over the 2010-2014 period. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 2510 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. The bill would benefit state and local governments by authorizing grants for systems to track absentee ballots.

To qualify for a grant under the bill, tracking systems must provide voters with the ability to confirm whether their absentee ballot for a federal election has been received and counted. Confirmation may occur via the Internet or, in cases where a jurisdiction has not established an official Web site, a toll-free telephone number.

H.R. 2510 would authorize grants to reimburse states for the costs of establishing such systems (including those in place prior to enactment), although the total grant could not exceed \$3,000 per election jurisdiction. CBO expects that those grants would provide a sufficient incentive to most jurisdictions to establish such systems. Based on information from EAC, CBO estimates that there are approximately 7,000 election jurisdictions in the United States.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Matthew Pickford and Daniel Hoople. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.