



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

Revised June 16, 2009

S. 669

Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs
on May 21, 2009*

S. 669 would modify an existing requirement that certain individuals determined to be mentally incompetent by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) be prohibited from purchasing or possessing legal firearms. CBO expects that implementing S. 669 would have no significant budgetary impact.

Under current law, the Department of Justice (DOJ) considers individuals who are found to be a danger to themselves or others as mentally defective and includes those names in databases managed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. Once the names are included in the databases, a background check conducted through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System will identify those individuals as being prohibited from purchasing firearms.

When VA deems individuals to be mentally incapacitated, mentally incompetent, experiencing an extended loss of consciousness, or otherwise unable to manage their own affairs, it is required to provide that information to DOJ. Such individuals are then added to the list of those prohibited from purchasing or possessing firearms.

Under S. 669, veterans would have to be determined by judicial authority to be dangerous before VA would be required to report them to DOJ.

S. 669 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 June 15, 2009, CBO transmitted an estimate for S. 669, the Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs on May 21, 2009. This estimate corrects a typographical error in the earlier estimate and clarifies that S. 669 would not have a significant budgetary impact.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Dwayne M. Wright. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.