



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

September 7, 2007

**H.R. 3096**  
**Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2007**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs  
on July 31, 2007*

H.R. 3096 would authorize funding, totaling an estimated \$20 million over the 2008-2010 period, to promote freedom, democracy, and human rights in Vietnam. In total, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$11 million in 2008 and \$20 million over the 2008-2012 period, assuming that the authorized and estimated amounts are appropriated near the start of each fiscal year and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for similar activities. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 3096 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 150 (international affairs).

|   | By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars |      |      |      |      |
|---|--|------|------|------|------|
|   | 2008                                   | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
| <b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b> |  |      |      |      |      |
| Radio Free Asia                                     |  |      |      |      |      |
| Authorization Level                                 | 9                                      | 1    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Estimated Outlays                                   | 8                                      | 2    | *    | *    | 0    |
| Migration and Refugee Assistance                    |  |      |      |      |      |
| Estimated Authorization Level                       | 3                                      | 2    | 1    | 0    | 0    |
| Estimated Outlays                                   | 3                                      | 2    | 1    | *    | *    |
| Human Rights  |  |      |      |      |      |
| Authorization Level                                 | 2                                      | 2    | 0    | 0    | 0    |
| Estimated Outlays                                   | 1                                      | 2    | 1    | 0    | 0    |
| Total Changes                                       |  |      |      |      |      |
| Estimated Authorization Level                       | 15                                     | 5    | 1    | 0    | 0    |
| Estimated Outlays                                   | 11                                     | 6    | 2    | *    | *    |

Notes: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

\* = less than \$500,000.

Section 301 of H.R. 3096 would authorize the appropriation of \$9 million in 2008 and \$1 million in 2009 for Radio Free Asia transmissions to Vietnam. Section 401 would authorize through 2010 such sums as may be necessary for the protection and resettlement of Vietnamese refugees and asylum seekers. Based on information from the Department of State, CBO estimates the department would handle 1,000 such cases in 2008, 500 cases in 2009, and 200 cases in 2010, at an average cost of \$3,400 per refugee. Section 201 would authorize the appropriation of \$2 million a year in 2008 and 2009 to promote human rights in Vietnam.

Section 101 would restrict certain types of nonhumanitarian assistance to Vietnam to the 2007 levels until the President can certify that the Vietnamese government has made substantial progress on freedom of religion, property rights, human rights, and other areas. The bill would allow the President to waive those restrictions. According to the Office of Management and Budget, the United States will spend roughly \$11 million in 2007 on nonhumanitarian assistance in Vietnam. The President has requested \$7 million for similar programs in 2008. Because the request is lower than the 2007 level, CBO estimates that any potential restrictions on foreign aid spending in Vietnam would have no significant effect.

H.R. 3096 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments. H.R. 3096 contains a private-sector mandate as defined in UMRA. The bill would prohibit an increase in some nonhumanitarian assistance to Vietnam above the amount provided in fiscal 2007, unless the President determines and certifies that the government of Vietnam has met certain human rights requirements specified in the bill. Under the bill, nonhumanitarian assistance would include sales (including exports of defense-related items) by the private sector under the Arms Export Controls Act. According to the Department of State, there are currently no such business activities authorized with the government of Vietnam; nor are there any pending requests for such business activities. Consequently, CBO estimates that the cost to comply with the mandate would be little if any, and would fall well below the annual threshold for private-sector mandates established by UMRA (\$131 million in 2007, adjusted annually for inflation).

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Sunita D'Monte. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.