



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

April 14, 2008

**H.R. 5551**

**An act to amend title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, to implement the increase provided under the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2008, in the amount of funds made available for the compensation of attorneys representing indigent defendants in the District of Columbia courts, and for other purposes**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on April 10, 2008*

H.R. 5551 would amend the District of Columbia Code to increase—from \$65 per hour to \$80 per hour—the rate of pay for attorneys representing indigent defendants in the District of Columbia courts. Under current law, the budget of the District of Columbia courts system, including Defender Services, is funded by federal appropriations, and its expenditures are recorded on the federal budget. Based on information from the courts, CBO estimates that increasing pay for attorneys would cost about \$7 million in 2009 and \$35 million over the 2009-2013 period, subject to the appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 5551 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 March 24, 2008, CBO provided a cost estimate for H.R. 5551, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on March 13, 2008. The two versions of the legislation are identical, as are their estimated costs.

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