



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

June 7, 1999

**H.R. 1225
United States Patent and Trademark Office Reauthorization Act,
Fiscal Year 2000**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on May 26, 1999

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1225 would not have a significant effect on the federal budget. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 1225 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.

H.R. 1225 would authorize the appropriation of \$116 million for the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) in fiscal year 2000, to be derived from fees collected in fiscal years 1999 and 2000. The bill would prohibit PTO from charging new fees to pay for the accrued indirect personnel costs associated with post-retirement health and life insurance of employees.

Under current law, PTO collects a number of user fees that are spent by the agency to the extent provided in appropriation acts. Last year, the Congress limited the amount of 1999 fee income that PTO can obligate in 1999, resulting in an advance appropriation for 2000 that CBO estimates will total \$167 million. Hence, H.R. 1225's authorization of \$116 million is already encompassed by the advance appropriation available under current law.

The CBO staff contact is Mark Hadley. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.