



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 26, 1999

S. 1753

A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that an adopted alien who is less than 18 years of age may be considered a child under such act if adopted with or after a sibling who is a child under such act

As reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on October 21, 1999

CBO estimates that enacting S. 1753 would have a negligible impact on the federal budget. Because the bill would affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. However, we estimate that the additional spending from enacting this bill would be less than \$500,000 a year. This legislation contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, but it could result in a very small increase in the state share of benefits paid under certain federal entitlement programs.

Under current law, U.S. citizens who adopt foreign-born children and who wish to live in the United States may file petitions for immigrant visas for these children if they are under the age of 16. S. 1753 would provide that any siblings of these children, who are under the age of 18, would also be eligible for a visa if the older child is adopted by the same family. Enacting the bill would increase the amount of visa fees collected by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), but we expect only a few hundred children to be affected each year. The INS could spend the fees mostly in the year that they were collected, so enacting S. 1753 would result in a negligible net impact on INS spending.

In addition, CBO estimates that enacting the bill would have an insignificant effect on benefits paid under certain federal entitlement programs. S. 1753 would increase the number of children admitted to the United States through adoption, and some of these children could become eligible for certain means-tested benefits.

On October 13, 1999, CBO prepared a cost estimate for H.R. 2886, as ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on October 5, 1999. The two bills are identical, as are the two cost estimates.

The CBO staff contacts are Mark Grabowicz (for INS costs), Valerie Baxter (for entitlement costs), and Lisa Cash Driskill (for the state and local impact). This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.