



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

November 17, 2011

H.R. 3012

Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on October 27, 2011

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3012 would have no significant budgetary impact. Enacting the bill could affect direct spending and revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. However, CBO estimates that any effects would be insignificant for each year.

Under current law, the number of family-sponsored and employment-based immigrant visas available to natives of a foreign country in each year generally cannot exceed 7 percent of the total number of such visas made available in that year. H.R. 3012 would raise the per-country limitation from 7 percent to 15 percent of the total number of family-sponsored visas and would remove this limitation for employment-based visas.

The bill would not affect the existing caps on the total number of family-sponsored and employment-based visas that can be issued in each year. Those caps have been reached in recent years, and CBO expects that trend to continue; so we anticipate that the bill would not significantly affect the number of immigrants entering the United States. Thus, we estimate that the net effects on adjudication fees collected as offsetting receipts and spent by the Department of Homeland Security would not be significant in any year. CBO also estimates that enacting H.R. 3012 would have insignificant net effects on visa fees collected as revenues by the Department of State.

H.R. 3012 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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