



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

February 6, 2003

S. 205

Iraqi Scientists Immigration Act of 2003

As reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on January 30, 2003

CBO estimates that enacting S. 205 would have a negligible net impact on the federal budget. The bill would affect direct spending, but we estimate that the amounts involved would be much less than \$500,000 a year. S. 205 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no significant cost on state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 205 would allow certain scientists, engineers, and technicians who have worked with Iraqi weapons of mass destruction to enter the U.S. and apply for permanent resident status. The bill would limit this opportunity to 500 individuals, plus their families.

Enacting S. 205 would increase the amount of fees collected by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to issue the new visas, but CBO expects total collections to be well below \$500,000 annually because of the small number of persons likely to be involved. The INS would spend the fees (without appropriation action), mostly in the year in which they were collected, so enacting S. 205 would result in a negligible net impact on INS spending. In addition, the Department of State would collect and spend certain fees for nonimmigrant visas, but we estimate that such collections and spending would be negligible.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. This estimate was approved by Paul R. Cullinan, Chief for Human Resources Cost Estimates Unit of the Budget Analysis Division.