



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

May 27, 1998

H.R. 1635

National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on May 20, 1998

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that the National Park Service (NPS) would spend about \$500,000 annually (beginning in fiscal year 1998) to carry out the requirements of H.R. 1635. This legislation would not affect governmental receipts or direct spending; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 1635 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.

H.R. 1635 would require the NPS to establish a program to be known as the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. In order to implement this program, the NPS would produce and distribute educational materials, create and adopt an official symbol for the network, and provide technical assistance to other interested entities. Also for this purpose, the bill would authorize the agency to execute cooperative agreements or memoranda of understanding with such entities, including private organizations, other nations, and federal, state, or local government agencies. Finally, the bill would authorize appropriations to carry out these activities of \$500,000 per year.

Based on information provided by the NPS, CBO estimates that the agency would spend about \$500,000 to create the network in the first several months following enactment. This work would include basic planning, developing educational materials and interpretive exhibits, and coordinating federal activities with those of other interested groups or individuals. The NPS would use the \$500,000 authorized for each subsequent year to manage the network and provide assistance to other parties under cooperative agreements.

On May 20, 1998, CBO prepared a cost estimate for S. 887, the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1997, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on May 13, 1998. The Senate bill would authorize the appropriation of \$500,000 for 1998 and \$1 million for each year thereafter. The estimate for H.R. 1635 reflects the lower authorization levels contained in the House bill. Other provisions of the two bills are nearly identical.

The staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. The estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.