



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

April 27, 2007

H.R. 1592

Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on April 25, 2007

SUMMARY

H.R. 1592 would establish certain hate crimes as new federal offenses and would direct the Department of Justice (DOJ) to expand its data collection efforts relating to hate crimes. The bill also would authorize the appropriation of:

- \$5 million for each of fiscal years 2008 and 2009 for DOJ to make grants to state, local, and tribal governments to investigate and prosecute hate crimes;
- Such sums as may be necessary for DOJ to make grants to state, local, and tribal governments to combat juvenile hate crimes; and
- Such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2008 through 2010 for additional personnel in DOJ and the Department of the Treasury to prevent, investigate, and prosecute hate crimes.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1592 would cost \$20 million over the 2008-2012 period. This legislation could affect direct spending and receipts, but CBO estimates that any such effects would not be significant in any year.

H.R. 1592 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 1592 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 750 (administration of justice).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Estimated Authorization Level	10	10	*	*	*
Estimated Outlays	2	6	5	4	3

Note: * = less than \$500,000.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

Based on spending for similar activities in recent years, CBO estimates that the bill's authorization for grants to combat juvenile hate crimes would cost an additional \$5 million for each of fiscal years 2008 and 2009—the same amount that the bill would specifically authorize for grants to state and local governments to combat hate crimes. We assume that the necessary amounts (a total of \$10 million a year for 2008 and 2009) will be appropriated by the start of each fiscal year and that outlays will follow the historical rates for similar grant programs.

Based on trends in federal investigations and prosecutions in recent years, CBO expects that the new federal hate crimes established by the bill would apply to a small number of cases each year. Thus, any increase in costs to DOJ, the Department of the Treasury, and the federal judiciary for law enforcement, court proceedings, or prison operations would be less than \$500,000 annually for 2008 through 2010, subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

DOJ currently compiles and summarizes data on hate crimes committed in the United States each year. H.R. 1592 would require this annual report to include crimes committed on the basis of gender or gender identity and hate crimes affecting juveniles. CBO estimates that it would cost DOJ less than \$500,000 each year from appropriated funds to carry out this provision.

Because those prosecuted and convicted under H.R. 1592 could be subject to criminal fines, the federal government might collect additional fines if the legislation is enacted. Collections of such fines are recorded in the budget as revenues, which are deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and later spent. CBO expects that any additional revenues and direct spending would be negligible because of the small number of cases involved.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR MANDATES

H.R. 1592 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Assuming the appropriation of authorized and estimated amounts, those governments would receive \$20 million to combat, investigate, and prosecute hate crimes. The bill also would authorize the Attorney General to provide technical, forensic, and prosecutorial assistance to those governments. Any costs would be incurred voluntarily as a condition of receiving federal assistance.

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