

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2011, that the necessary funds will be provided for each year, and that the pace of spending will reflect similar government efforts.

S. 410 would authorize certain judges to allow court proceedings to be photographed, recorded, broadcast, and televised. The federal court system generally prohibits the use of still cameras, television cameras, and other electronic recording devices in federal courtrooms. However, a few courtrooms have been equipped with those devices at costs ranging from about \$25,000 to \$75,000 for each room, and the Judicial Conference has approved a pilot program to install media devices in a small number of courts.

CBO estimates that implementing S. 410 would cost about \$5 million over the 2012-2016 period, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. That amount would be sufficient to equip about 20 courtrooms a year. There are more than 1,200 federal courtrooms. (Costs could be greater if more judges permit the use of cameras; but under the bill, a court could require that any such accommodation be made without public expense, using donated funds or equipment.)

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 410 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

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