



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 16, 2017

H.R. 653

Federal Intern Protection Act of 2017

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
on March 8, 2017*

H.R. 653 would amend federal law to provide that unpaid federal interns are protected from workplace harassment and discrimination. (Paid interns are already considered employees for those purposes.) Although the federal government prohibits discrimination and harassment in the workplace through laws, regulations, and agency policies, unpaid interns are not explicitly covered by those laws.

Based on information from the Office of Personnel Management, the Office of Special Counsel, and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, CBO estimates that any costs under the bill for agency training or payments to settle claims of discrimination or harassment would be negligible.

Enacting H.R. 653 could affect direct spending by some agencies (such as the Tennessee Valley Authority) because they are authorized to spend receipts from the sale of goods, fees, and other collections to cover their operating costs. Therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. Because most of those agencies can make adjustments to the amounts collected, CBO estimates that any net changes in direct spending by those agencies would be negligible. Enacting the bill would not affect revenues.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 653 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits by more than \$5 billion in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

CBO has not reviewed H.R. 653 for intergovernmental or private-sector mandates. Section 4 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act excludes from the application of that act any legislative provisions that would establish or enforce statutory rights prohibiting discrimination. CBO has determined that this legislation falls within that exclusion because it would extend protections against discrimination in the workplace based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or handicapped condition to unpaid interns or applicants for such positions.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. This estimate was approved by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.