



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 26, 2009

H.R. 512 **Federal Election Integrity Act of 2009**

As ordered reported by the Committee on House Administration on June 10, 2009

H.R. 512 would amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit any chief state election administration official from taking part in the political management or campaign of any official vying for federal office, except under certain specified circumstances. Under current law, there is no prohibition on those activities.

Based on information from the Federal Election Commission (FEC) and subject to the availability of appropriated funds, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 512 would cost less than \$500,000 in 2010. That amount would include one-time computer expenses as well as the cost of issuing new regulations and enforcement activities to implement this provision. In future years under the legislation, general administrative costs of the FEC would increase by negligible amounts.

Enacting H.R. 512 could affect federal revenues by increasing the collections of fines for violations of the law. Such collections are recorded in the budget as revenues and, in certain cases, may be spent without further appropriation. CBO estimates any additional revenues and direct spending under H.R. 512 would be insignificant because of the small number of anticipated violations.

H.R. 512 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

By prohibiting the chief election administration official of a state from taking an active part in political management or in a political campaign with respect to any federal election over which the official has supervisory authority, the bill could impose a private-sector mandate. CBO estimates that the cost to comply with the prohibition would be minimal and would fall well below the annual threshold established in UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$139 million in 2009, adjusted annually for inflation).

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.