



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 5, 2010

H.R. 5809 **Safe Drug Disposal Act of 2010**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce
on July 28, 2010*

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 5809 would cost about \$2 million in fiscal year 2011 and less than \$500,000 annually over the 2012-2014 period, from appropriated amounts. The bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. H.R. 5809 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. 5809 would require the Department of Justice (DOJ) to authorize long-term care facilities (such as nursing homes) to arrange for the appropriate disposal of certain controlled substances. Based on information from DOJ, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would not significantly affect the department's spending on drug control programs.

In addition, H.R. 5809 would direct the Office of National Drug Control Policy to carry out a public outreach campaign relating to the safe disposal of prescription drugs. H.R. 5809 also would require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct a study on the environmental impacts of disposing of controlled substances and would require the Government Accountability Office (GAO), within four years of the date of enactment, to prepare a report on implementation of the bill's provisions.

Based on the costs of similar activities, CBO estimates that the public outreach campaign and the EPA study would cost about \$1 million each in 2011 and the GAO report would cost less than \$500,000 annually over the 2011-2014 period, from appropriated funds.

On August 3, 2010, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 3397, the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010, as reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on July 29, 2010. The two bills are similar, but S. 3397 did not require a public outreach campaign or any reports and we estimated that its implementation would have no significant cost to the federal government.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.