



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

December 20, 2012

**S. 1744**  
**Guardian Accountability and Senior Protection Act**

*As reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on July, 12, 2012*

**SUMMARY**

S. 1744 would amend the Older Americans Act to authorize grants to state courts to assist in collaborating with the state agencies on aging and state adult protective service agencies in assessing each state's practices and procedures used to determine whether to impose adult guardianships and conservatorships. A portion of each grant would be used to implement or improve systems for conducting background checks on prospective guardians and conservators. CBO estimates that enacting S. 1744 would increase discretionary authorizations by \$30 million each year and that implementing the bill would cost \$108 million over the 2013-2017 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

Pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply to this legislation because it would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 1744 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 S. 1744 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 500 (education, training, employment, and social services).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2013-2017
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Estimated Authorization Level	30	30	30	30	30	150
Estimated Outlays	3	18	27	30	30	108

**BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

S. 1744 would authorize grants to state courts for assessing and improving procedures relating to adult guardianships and conservatorships, including implementing or improving background checks for potential guardians and conservators. Based on the level of funding for similar court improvement programs in the Foster Care and Adoption Assistance system, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would effectively authorize the appropriation of \$30 million annually for those purposes. Assuming appropriation of the estimated amounts, CBO estimates that discretionary outlays for implementing the bill would total \$108 million over the 2013-2017 period.

**PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

S. 1744 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

**ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

Federal Costs: Christina Hawley Anthony  
 Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Melissa Merrell  
 Impact on the Private Sector: Paige Piper/Bach and Vi Nguyen

**ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:**

Peter H. Fontaine  
 Assistant Director for Budget Analysis