



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

September 12, 2008

**H.R. 6589
Charles H.W. Meehan Law Library Improvement
and Modernization Act**

As ordered reported by the Committee on House Administration on July 30, 2008

H.R. 6589 would authorize the appropriation of \$3.5 million for the law library of the Library of Congress, and would establish a Charles H.W. Meehan program to support the mission of the law library. The library could receive donations of funds and in-kind support, and could spend those funds (and the interest earned on them) without future appropriation. In addition, the bill would authorize appropriations equal to 40 percent of the donations received for support of the law library.

Based on the nature of previous donations in support of the law library and historical spending patterns, and assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 6589 would cost \$3.5 million over the 2009-2013 period.

Because H.R. 6589 would allow the Librarian to accept and spend donations for projects, enacting H.R. 6589 could affect direct spending and receipts, but the spending and the receipts would offset each other. In addition, the bill would allow the Librarian to spend any interest earned on the donations. CBO expects that such spending would be negligible. Thus, CBO estimates that changes in direct spending and receipts from enacting the bill would not have a significant net effect on the federal budget.

H.R. 6589 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Christina Hawley Anthony. This estimate was approved by Keith Fontenot, Deputy Assistant Director for Health and Human Resources, Budget Analysis Division.