



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

September 15, 2008

H.R. 5788
Halting Airplane Noise to Give Us Peace Act of 2008

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
on July 31, 2008*

H.R. 5788 would prohibit airline passengers from using certain communication devices during flights. CBO estimates that enacting this bill would not affect federal spending or revenues. H.R. 5788 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.

H.R. 5788 would impose private-sector mandates, as defined in UMRA, on airline passengers and air carriers. The bill would prohibit passengers from talking on cell phones or using services known as voice over Internet protocol (VOIP) during a domestic commercial flight. The bill also would require air carriers to adopt this prohibition during international flights. Rules by the Federal Aviation Administration and the Federal Communications Commission currently prohibit the use of cell phones during a flight but do not prohibit air passengers from using VOIP services. According to industry representatives, few air carriers offer Internet services during flights, and none of those air carriers allow the use of VOIP services. Therefore, CBO estimates that the cost of the mandates would fall well below the annual threshold established in UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$136 million in 2008, adjusted annually for inflation).

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Megan Carroll (for federal costs) and Jacob Kuipers (for the impact on the private sector). This estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.