



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

November 14, 2005

H.R. 4125

A bill to permit the Administrator of General Services to make repairs and lease space without approval of a prospectus if the repair or lease is required as a result of damages to buildings or property attributable to Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
on October 26, 2005*

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4125 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues. H.R. 4125 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.

Under current law, the General Services Administration (GSA) is responsible for repairing federal buildings it manages and leasing privately owned properties for use by federal agencies. Spending for such activities is subject to appropriation. Except in emergency situations, repairs or leases that are estimated to cost more than \$2.41 million require prior approval by the Congressional committees with jurisdiction over GSA.

H.R. 4125 would authorize GSA to proceed, without prior approval by those committees, with any repairs or lease negotiations necessitated by Hurricanes Katrina or Rita. Under H.R. 4125, GSA might complete activities with estimated costs greater than \$2.41 million sooner than under current law. Based on information from GSA, however, CBO estimates that the proposed procedural change would not significantly affect the rate at which GSA will spend existing resources. CBO also estimates that the bill would not have a significant impact on new funding for repairs or leases related to the hurricanes. (Any such funding would be subject to appropriation.)

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