



H.R. 5057 – Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act of 2008 as amended

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 5057 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) on January 17, 2008. The House passed the bill under suspension of the rules on July 14, 2008, by voice vote. The Senate passed the measure, with an amendment, by unanimous consent on September 25, 2008.

This version of H.R. 5057, as amended by the Senate, is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 26, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 5057 reauthorizes the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program through 2014. The bill authorizes appropriations of \$151 million for each of the fiscal years 2009-2014 for this purpose.

The bill additionally reauthorizes the training and education programs, as well as the sexual assault forensic exam grants prescribed under the DNA Sexual Assault Justice Act of 2004 through 2009.

BACKGROUND

The DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 was enacted on December 19, 2000. This legislation allows States to carry out DNA analyses for use in the FBI's Combined DNA Index System and to collect and analyze DNA samples. The program is set to expire in 2009.

The Debbie Smith Grant Program allows the Attorney General to award grants to States and local governments to carry out DNA analyses, increase the capacity of State and local DNA laboratories, and to ensure that DNA tests and analyses are carried out in a timely manner. Under current law, the Attorney General is required to submit reports to Congress summarizing the grants made for this purpose each fiscal year. The program is currently authorized at \$151 million annually for both years 2008 and 2009.

The program is named after Debbie Smith, a woman who was robbed and raped in 1989 near her home in Williamsburg, Virginia. In 1995, DNA samples extracted from Smith's rape kit identified a man incarcerated in a Virginia prison for another crime as the perpetrator.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has not produced a cost estimate for H.R. 5057, as amended, as of September 26, 2008.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact the Adam Hepburn at 6-2302.