



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

March 5, 2003

S. 286

Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities Prevention Act of 2003

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
on February 12, 2003*

SUMMARY

S. 286 would amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and clarify activities conducted by the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The bill would authorize the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2003 through 2007 for that purpose. (The previous authorization for the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities expired at the end of fiscal year 2002.) Additionally, the bill would change the allotment formula for grants to State Councils on Developmental Disabilities.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts (including annual adjustments for anticipated inflation), CBO estimates that implementing S. 286 would cost \$32 million in 2004 and \$381 million over the 2004-2008 period. (Without such inflation adjustments, the change in outlays would total \$369 million over the 2004-2008 period.) Enacting this legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 286 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. 286 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 550 (health).

By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
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SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION

CDC Spending Under Current Law for
Birth Defects and Developmental
Disabilities

Budget Authority ^a	99	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	31	44	18	4	2	0

Proposed Changes^b

Estimated Authorization Level	0	101	103	106	108	0
Estimated Outlays	0	32	77	97	103	72

CDC Spending Under S. 286 for Birth
Defects and Developmental Disabilities

Estimated Authorization Level ^a	99	101	103	106	108	0
Estimated Outlays	31	76	95	101	105	72

a. The 2003 figure is the amount appropriated for that year for activities under CDC's National Center for Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities program.

b. The amounts shown reflect adjustments for anticipated inflation for those activities for which the bill would authorize such sums as necessary. Without such inflation adjustments, the five-year changes in authorization levels would total \$404 million (instead of \$418 million) and the changes in outlays would total \$369 million (instead of \$381 million).

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes S. 286 will be enacted by the end of this fiscal year, and that the necessary amounts will be appropriated for each year.

CDC's National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities conducts a range of data collection and research activities related to the prevention of birth defects and developmental disabilities. Those activities include surveillance and monitoring of birth defects and developmental disabilities such as mental retardation, cerebral palsy, and autism, research on the causes of birth defects, and an educational campaign to increase the consumption of folic acid to prevent spina bifida and anencephaly. Other activities focus on surveillance and prevention of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and identification of ways to address the public health needs of persons with disabilities. The center's appropriation for fiscal year 2003 is \$99 million.

S. 286 would reauthorize the center's activities for the 2003-2007 period and would authorize appropriations of such sums as may be necessary for that purpose. Additionally, the bill would clarify that the center's activities should encompass data collection on disabilities and health, research on the prevention of birth defects and disabilities and the prevention of secondary health conditions among people with disabilities, and support for a National Spina Bifida program. According to CDC, the center currently conducts such activities. Therefore, the clarifications in S. 286 would not result in a broader set of authorized activities.

Based on the amount appropriated for the center in fiscal year 2003 and taking into account anticipated inflation, CBO estimates that the center would require appropriations of \$418 million for fiscal years 2004 through 2007. Assuming appropriation of such amounts and spending consistent with historical outlay rates, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would result in outlays of \$32 million in 2004 and \$381 million over the 2004-2008 period.

S. 286 also would make a technical change to the allotment formula for grants to State Councils on Developmental Disabilities, a program in which states use federal grant funds to provide services to individuals with disabilities. CBO estimates this change would have no effect on federal spending.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 286 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On February 11, 2003, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 398, the Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities Act of 2003, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on January 28, 2003. The bills are identical. CBO estimated that H.R. 398 would increase spending by \$29 million in 2004 and \$350 million over the 2004-2008 period—\$3 million and \$31 million lower, respectively, than the current estimate. The difference is due entirely to higher projections of spending under current law as a result of enactment of the omnibus appropriations act (P.L. 108-7).

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