



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 16, 2007

S. 1582

Hydrographic Services Improvement Act Amendments of 2007

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation on July 19, 2007*

SUMMARY

S. 1582 would amend the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998. The bill also would authorize the appropriation of whatever amounts are necessary for fiscal years 2008 through 2012 for hydrographic activities carried out by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that the hydrographic services authorized by the bill would cost \$110 million in 2008 and \$798 million over the 2008-2012 period. (An additional \$96 million would be spent after 2012.) Enacting S. 1582 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

This legislation contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1582 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
NOAA Spending For Hydrographic Services						
Under Current Law						
Budget Authority ^a	163	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	160	36	16	5	0	0
Proposed Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	169	173	179	184	189
Estimated Outlays	0	110	150	171	181	186
Spending Under S. 1582						
Estimated Authorization Level ^a	163	169	173	179	184	189
Estimated Outlays	160	146	166	176	181	186

a. The 2007 level is the amount appropriated for hydrographic services for that year.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 1582 will be enacted near the beginning of fiscal year 2008, that the necessary amounts will be appropriated for each year, and that spending will follow historical patterns for this program.

S. 1582 would authorize funding for hydrographic services performed by NOAA over the 2008-2012 period. Such services include nautical mapping and charting, collecting hydrographic data, maintaining a geodetic reference system, and measuring tides and currents. Assuming appropriation of the amounts needed to continue carrying out those activities at their current funding levels, CBO estimates that NOAA would spend an additional \$110 million in 2008 and \$798 million over the 2008-2012 period. For this estimate, we assume that annual funding over the five-year period would continue at a level equal to the amount appropriated in 2007 (\$163 million), with annual adjustments for anticipated inflation. We estimate that other provisions of the bill, which would amend the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, would have no significant impact on the federal budget.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 1582 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Deborah Reis

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Leo Lex

Impact on the Private Sector: Justin Hall and Patrice Gordon

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Peter H. Fontaine

Assistant Director for Budget Analysis