



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 12, 2006

S. 1741

Disaster Area Health and Environmental Monitoring Act of 2005

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs on June 15, 2006*

SUMMARY

S. 1741 would amend title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize a new program to protect the health and safety of disaster relief workers such as firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical technicians. This bill would authorize federal agencies to collect and analyze environmental data at disaster areas to determine whether substances that may be harmful to human health are present. In addition, this bill would authorize those agencies to disseminate educational materials to affected communities and to conduct long-term epidemiological studies of affected populations. S. 1741 also would authorize the National Academy of Sciences to study and prepare a report on disaster area health and environmental protection and monitoring. Finally, the bill would extend the authorization for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Predisaster Mitigation Program through September 30, 2007.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary funds, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1741 would cost \$96 million over the 2007-2011 period. Enacting S. 1741 would not affect direct spending or revenues. S. 1741 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no cost on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1741 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 450 (community and regional development).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Spending Under Current Law for Predisaster Mitigation						
Budget Authority ^a	50	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	35	30	15	10	10	5
Proposed Changes						
Disaster Area Health Monitoring Program						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	5	5	10	10	15
Estimated Outlays	0	3	5	8	10	13
National Academy of Sciences Report						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	6	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	0	2	1	1	1	1
Predisaster Mitigation Program						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	51	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	0	15	31	5	0	0
Total Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	62	5	10	10	15
Estimated Outlays	0	20	37	14	11	14
Spending Under S. 1741 for Predisaster Mitigation and Disaster Area Health Monitoring Program						
Estimated Authorization Level ^a	50	62	5	10	10	15
Estimated Outlays	35	50	52	24	21	19

a. The 2006 level is the amount appropriated for that year.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

CBO estimates that implementing the provisions in S. 1741 would cost \$96 million over the 2007-2011 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary funds.

Under S. 1741, CBO expects that the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) would be tasked with conducting long-term epidemiological studies in certain disaster areas that are called for under the legislation. Such long-term health studies would likely be conducted at disaster areas where harmful pollutants are released into the

environment. Based on information from the ATSDR, CBO expects that each long-term study conducted under this bill would cost \$4 million to \$6 million a year and could last from five to 15 years. CBO cannot predict the number of such studies that might be conducted in the future. For this estimate, CBO assumes that one new study would be initiated every other year at an average cost of \$5 million per year, for an estimated cost of \$39 million over the 2007-2011 period. Based on information from the National Academy of Sciences, CBO estimates that the long-term study on disaster-area health would cost \$6 million over five years. Assuming appropriation of the necessary funds, CBO estimates that implementing these provisions would cost \$45 million over the 2007-2011 period.

S. 1741 also would extend the authorization of appropriations for FEMA's Predisaster Hazard Mitigation Program through 2007. The authorization for that program expired at the end of calendar year 2003. For this estimate, CBO estimated the authorization of appropriations for fiscal year 2007 by adjusting the \$50 million appropriated in 2006 for anticipated inflation. Assuming appropriation of the necessary funds, CBO estimates that implementing this provision would cost \$51 million over the 2007-2011 period.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 1741 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Julie Middleton

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Melissa Merrell

Impact on the Private Sector: Fatimot Ladipo

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Peter H. Fontaine

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis