



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

October 4, 2000

**S. 1756**

**National Laboratories Partnership Improvement Act of 2000**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
on September 20, 2000*

**SUMMARY**

S. 1756 would authorize the appropriation of \$10 million a year for three years to the Department of Energy (DOE) for the establishment of a Technology Infrastructure Pilot Program. Under the program, the Secretary of Energy would promote the development of technology clusters (a geographic concentration of businesses, universities, and nonprofit institutions) and encourage the exchange of science and technology information among the private and nonprofit sectors and 10 of DOE's national laboratories and facilities. Any amounts appropriated would be divided equally among 10 DOE national laboratories and facilities selected by the Secretary.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1756 would cost \$30 million over the 2001-2006 period. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. S. 1756 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. 1756 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 270 (energy) and 050 (defense).

---

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005

---

**CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION**

Authorization Level	0	10	10	10	0
Estimated Outlays	0	2	7	10	8

---

**BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the amounts authorized will be appropriated for each year, beginning in 2002. We assume that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for similar programs. Because the new program would require at least 50 percent of funding to be provided from nonfederal sources, we expect initial program spending would start slowly.

**PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE SECTOR IMPACT**

S. 1756 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Any costs or benefits accruing to intergovernmental entities, including public universities, from participation in the Technology Infrastructure Pilot Program would be voluntary.

**ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

Federal Costs: Lisa Cash Driskill  
 Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Victoria Heid Hall  
 Impact on the Private Sector: Tim VandenBurg

**ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:**

Peter H. Fontaine  
 Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis