



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

March 27, 2007

**Section 1913 of S. 4  
Improving America's Security Act of 2007**

*As passed by the Senate on March 13, 2007*

Section 1913 of S. 4 would require the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) to provide English transcripts of all its original broadcasting within 30 days of the broadcast. BBG is an independent federal agency responsible for all U.S. government, non-military, international broadcasting. CBO estimates that implementing this provision would cost about \$145 million in 2008 and \$760 million over the 2008-2012 period (after adjusting for inflation), assuming appropriation of the estimated amounts. Enacting this provision would not affect direct spending or receipts.

Information provided by BBG indicates that the agency broadcasts about 97,000 hours of original radio programming and 10,700 hours of original television programming in 57 languages. Based on information from BBG, the General Services Administration, and the National Virtual Translation Center, CBO estimates that this work would be done by private contractors and it would cost, on average, about \$1,350 to translate, transcribe, and edit each hour of broadcast material.

Section 1913 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Sunita D'Monte. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.