



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

November 2, 1999

H.R. 2541

**A bill to adjust the boundaries of the Gulf Islands National Seashore
to include Cat Island, Mississippi**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on October 27, 1999

H.R. 2541 would add about 2,200 acres of land and water to the boundaries of the Gulf Island National Seashore. The property to be added is located on Cat Island, Mississippi. The bill would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire the property and would authorize the appropriation of whatever amounts are necessary for this purpose.

In the absence of a formal appraisal of the property, the cost of implementing this bill is uncertain. However, based on information obtained from the National Park Service and local tax authorities, CBO estimates that purchasing the Cat Island acreage could cost as much as \$30 million, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. We estimate that additional costs to develop visitor facilities on the island would cost between \$1 million and \$2 million over the next five years. Operating costs for this new property would be about \$500,000 in fiscal year 2000 and about \$200,000 annually thereafter.

H.R. 2541 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.