



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 2, 2008

S. 2549

Environmental Justice Renewal Act

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
on July 31, 2008

SUMMARY

S. 2549 would require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish an Interagency Working Group to advise federal agencies about how to best minimize any disproportionately high and adverse effects of pollution on minority and low-income populations (referred to in the bill as environmental justice issues). Enacting this legislation also would require EPA to establish an ombudsman to address issues concerning such effects, a training program concerning environmental justice issues for EPA employees, an advisory council, and an Internet-based clearinghouse for information on environmental justice. Finally, the bill would authorize specified appropriations for EPA to provide grants to states, nonprofit organizations, federal agencies, and other entities working on those problems.

CBO estimates that implementing S. 2549 would cost \$106 million over the 2009-2013 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting S. 2549 would not affect direct spending or receipts.

S. 2549 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. 2549 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					2009-2013
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Grant Programs						
Authorization Level	26	26	26	26	26	130
Estimated Outlays	10	20	23	25	26	104
EPA Support for Environmental Justice Activities						
Estimated Authorization Level	*	*	*	*	*	2
Estimated Outlays	*	*	*	*	*	2
Total Changes						
Authorization Level	26	26	26	26	26	132
Estimated Outlays	10	20	23	25	26	106

Note: * = less than \$500,000.

Numbers may not sum to totals because of rounding.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 2549 will be enacted near the start of fiscal year 2009 and that the necessary amounts will be appropriated each year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar programs. Implementing this legislation would establish several grant programs to address environmental justice issues within communities and to support research on such issues. CBO estimates that those grant programs would cost \$104 million over the 2009-2013 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts.

According to EPA, many of the activities required under this legislation are already underway. CBO estimates, based on information from EPA, that implementing this legislation would increase that agency's administrative costs by less than \$500,000 annually over the 2009-2013 period.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 2549 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. The bill would benefit state, local, and tribal governments by establishing several grant programs to address environmental justice issues within communities and by establishing a research grant program for institutions of higher education to conduct studies on those issues.

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