



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 21, 2006

S. 959

Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Act

As ordered reported by House Committee on Government Reform on June 8, 2006

S. 959 would establish a commission to develop, plan, coordinate, and execute programs, observances, and activities to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812. The commission, consisting of 40 members, would have about nine years to report to the Congress on its finding and recommendations. Members would serve without pay but would be reimbursed for travel expenses. The legislation would allow the commission to make grants to communities, nonprofit organizations, and other groups to commemorate the anniversary. In addition, the commission could hire staff or use personnel from other federal agencies. The commission would terminate 90 days after submitting its final report. S. 959 would direct the commission to prepare a strategic and annual performance plan for its activities.

Based on the costs of similar commissions, CBO estimates that the commission would spend about \$2 million annually over the 2007-2011 period. Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$9 million over the next five years. That assumes that the commission would hire a staff of six individuals and provide annual grant money to groups to develop programs related to the commemoration. Because S. 959 would authorize the commission to accept and use gifts, the legislation could affect revenues and direct spending. CBO estimates, however, that any revenues from contributions and subsequent direct spending would be less than \$500,000 annually.

S. 959 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Any participation by state or local governments in the programs or activities of this commission would be voluntary.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Matthew Pickford (for federal costs), and Marjorie Miller (for the state and local impact). This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.