



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 11, 2006

S. 362

Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
on June 28, 2006*

SUMMARY

S. 362 would establish a program to reduce the amount of marine debris (such as plastic and lost fishing gear) in oceans and coastal areas and to mitigate its effects on health and navigation safety. Under the legislation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) would conduct projects to identify and catalogue debris hazards, determine sources of such debris, and develop methods of removing existing debris and preventing further occurrences. S. 362 would authorize NOAA to provide grants to nonfederal entities such as state or local governments and universities involved with those activities. The act also would direct the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to improve enforcement of existing laws and treaties that address ocean pollution waste disposal at sea. For these purposes, the act would authorize the appropriation of \$12 million (\$10 million to NOAA and \$2 million to the USCG) for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2010.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 362 would cost \$3 million in fiscal year 2007 and \$48 million over the 2007-2011 period. (For this estimate, we assume that no additional funds would be appropriated for this purpose for 2006). Enacting this legislation would have no effect on revenues or direct spending.

S. 362 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA); any costs to state, local, or tribal governments would result from complying with conditions of federal assistance.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 362 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 300 (natural resources and environment) and 400

(transportation). For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 362 will be enacted by the beginning of fiscal year 2007, that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2010, and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for similar activities of the agencies involved.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Authorization Level	12	12	12	12	0
Estimated Outlays	3	13	15	15	2

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 362 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA; any costs to state, local, or tribal governments would result from complying with conditions of federal assistance.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATES

On March 18, 2005, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 362 as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on March 10, 2005. On November 23, 2005, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 367 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on November 16, 2005. The three versions of the legislation are very similar, but as reflected in the CBO estimates, CBO now expects that S. 362 would be enacted too late for the 2006 authorization amount to be appropriated. The Senate version of the bill contains intergovernmental mandates because it would require the Coast Guard to issue regulations to improve the disposal of plastics and other garbage by ports.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Deborah Reis

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Sarah Puro

Impact on the Private Sector: Craig Cammarata

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Peter H. Fontaine

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis