



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

January 16, 2008

**S. 1640  
Vessel Hull Design Protection Amendments of 2007**

*As passed by the Senate on October 4, 2007*

S. 1640 would amend provisions of copyright law that provide protection for the design of a vessel hull. Under current law, such protection is available for the design of a vessel hull, including the deck. S. 1640 would provide explicit copyright protection for a vessel hull, deck, or a combination of the two. The bill also would provide a new definition for the deck of a vessel, making it clear that deck designs would be protected.

Based on information from the Copyright Office, CBO estimates that the new definitions would not have a significant impact on spending subject to appropriation because they clarify rather than extend the scope of copyright protections available. In 2007, 37 designs for vessel hulls received copyright protection; the Copyright Office does not expect that implementing this legislation would significantly increase the number of hull designs registered. Enacting S. 1640 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 1640 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 Susan Willie. This estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.