



# CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 10, 2008

## **H.R. 2251** **Acadia National Park Improvement Act of 2008**

*As passed by the House of Representatives on February 12, 2008*

### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 2251 would amend existing laws that govern the authority of the National Park Service (NPS) to operate the Acadia National Park in Maine. Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would cost \$14 million over the 2009-2013 period. Enacting H.R. 2251 would have no effect on revenues or direct spending.

The act 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 H.R. 2251 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

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	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>					
Estimated Authorization Level	3	3	3	3	2
Estimated Outlays	3	3	3	3	2

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## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 2251 will be enacted before the start of 2009 and that the entire amounts authorized or estimated to be necessary will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on historical patterns for similar NPS acquisition and development projects.

H.R. 2251 would authorize the appropriation of an additional \$10 million for land acquisition at Acadia. (About \$18 million has already been appropriated and spent for this purpose). CBO estimates that the \$10 million would be spent over a five-year period (2009 through 2013) to purchase up to 100 tracts of land within the park's existing boundaries.

Section 5 of the legislation would authorize the NPS to participate in designing, building, and operating a transportation center located outside of park boundaries. This section would authorize the appropriation of 40 percent of the costs of building the center and 85 percent of subsequent operation and maintenance expenses. Based on information provided by the NPS, CBO expects that most of the cost of constructing the center would be borne by the Department of Transportation under existing authority. We estimate that the NPS would spend about \$4 million over the 2009-2012 period for its 40 percent share of the project's costs, mostly to furnish a small visitor facility within the center and develop appropriate exhibits and other interpretive materials. We estimate that the agency's annual cost to help operate the center would be less than \$500,000 annually.

Finally, H.R. 2251 would extend the life of the Acadia National Park Advisory Committee for an additional 20 years. Authority for the commission expired near the end of fiscal year 2006. CBO estimates that the cost of operating the commission would be less than \$50,000 a year.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 2251 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

## **PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE**

On February 29, 2008, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 1329, the Acadia National Park Improvement Act of 2007, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on January 30, 2008. S. 1329 and H.R. 2251 are very similar, and their estimated costs are identical.

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