



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

May 14, 2012

S. 657

National Blue Alert Act of 2011

As reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on September 8, 2011

SUMMARY

S. 657 would require the Department of Justice (DOJ) to establish a national communications network to issue alerts (that would be known as “blue alerts”) when a law enforcement officer is killed or seriously injured. The bill also would authorize the appropriation of \$10 million annually for DOJ to make grants to states to cover costs relating to participation in the blue alert program.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 657 would cost \$36 million over the 2013-2017 period. Pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply to this legislation because it would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 657 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. 657 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 750 (administration of justice).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2013- 2017
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
DOJ Grants						
Authorization Level	10	10	10	10	10	50
Estimated Outlays	1	4	7	9	10	31
DOJ Administrative Costs						
Estimated Authorization Level	1	1	1	1	1	5
Estimated Outlays	1	1	1	1	1	5
Total						
Estimated Authorization Level	11	11	11	11	11	55
Estimated Outlays	2	5	8	10	11	36

Note: DOJ = Department of Justice.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 657 will be enacted by the end of fiscal year 2012. We assume that the necessary amounts will be appropriated near the start of each fiscal year and that spending will follow historical patterns for similar activities.

S. 657 would authorize the appropriation of \$10 million for each fiscal year for DOJ to make grants to states to fund activities that would support participation in the blue alert program. Grants could be used to develop training and education programs and to improve communications technologies for the new alert program.

S. 657 would require DOJ to establish and promote a national communications network to issue alerts when a law enforcement officer is seriously injured or killed. Under the bill's provisions, the department would develop guidelines and protocols for state and local governments that participate in the program and provide assistance as necessary to those participants. Based on the costs of similar activities, CBO estimates that it would cost about \$1 million annually for DOJ to establish and administer the new program.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 657 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 May 10, 2012, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 365, the National Blue Alert Act of 2012, as ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on April 25, 2012. The two bills are the same, as are the CBO cost estimates.

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