



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

March 4, 2015

**S. 253  
Federal Communications Commission Consolidated  
Reporting Act of 2015**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,  
and Transportation on February 26, 2015*

S. 253 would require the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to prepare a biennial report for the Congress that assesses certain characteristics of the communications industry. The report would analyze the state of competition in the markets for voice, video, and data services, as well as the availability of high-speed and high-quality telecommunications services. Further, the bill would require the FCC to determine whether laws and regulations pose a barrier to entry into communications markets and to include that information in the biennial report. If the FCC fails to meet the reporting deadline as provided in the bill, the agency would be required to notify the Congress of the delay and provide the completion date for the report.

S. 253 also would relieve the FCC of requirements to prepare certain other reports for the Congress on topics ranging from access to satellite services to prices for cable services. In all, the bill would eliminate more than 20 reports and notices, including some that remain in current law even though deadlines for their completion have passed.

Based on information from the FCC, CBO estimates that implementing the provisions of S. 253 would not have a significant effect on the agency's costs. Any additional expenses the FCC would incur to prepare the new assessment of the communications industry would be offset by a reduction in costs that would otherwise be incurred for preparing the reports that would be eliminated under the bill. Moreover, under current law, the FCC is authorized to collect fees sufficient to offset the cost of its regulatory activities each year. Therefore, CBO estimates that the net cost to implement the provisions of S. 253 would be negligible, assuming annual appropriation actions consistent with the agency's authorities. Enacting S. 253 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

S. 253 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.

On February 23, 2015, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 734, the Federal Communications Commission Consolidated Reporting Act of 2015, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on February 12, 2015. The two bills are similar, as are the CBO cost estimates.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Susan Willie. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.