



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 2, 2009

S. 601 **Weather Mitigation Research and Development Policy** **Authorization Act of 2009**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
on May 20, 2009*

SUMMARY

S. 601 would authorize the appropriation of \$25 million for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014 to establish a Weather Mitigation Research Office within the National Science Foundation (NSF). The new office would coordinate studies and provide grants to universities, state agencies, and nonprofit organizations to explore methods to reduce the impact of severe weather.

CBO estimates that implementing S. 601 would increase discretionary spending by \$88 million over the 2010-2014 period and by \$37 million after 2014, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. The bill also would authorize NSF to collect and spend donations from nonfederal sources, but CBO estimates that any new offsetting receipts and associated direct spending would be minimal and would have no net effect on the federal budget.

The bill 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. 601 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 250 (science, space, and technology) and 800 (general government).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2010-2014
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Estimated Authorization Level	25	25	25	25	25	125
Estimated Outlays	2	17	22	23	24	88

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes the bill will be enacted near the end of 2009 and that the authorized and necessary amounts will be appropriated each year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for NSF research programs. In addition to the amounts specifically authorized to be appropriated, CBO estimates that the Office of Science and Technology Policy would require less than \$500,000 over the 2010-2014 period to help coordinate federal weather mitigation research and report to the Congress on those activities.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 601 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Any costs to those entities would be incurred voluntarily as a condition of receiving federal assistance.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Leigh Angres
 Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Shannon Fairchild and Ryan Miller
 Impact on the Private Sector: Amy Petz

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Theresa Gullo
 Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis