CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

March 19, 2013

H.R. 1073
Nuclear Terrorism Conventions Implementation
and Safety of Maritime Navigation Act of 2013

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on March 14, 2013

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1073 would have no significant cost to the federal government. Enacting the bill could affect direct spending and revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. However, CBO estimates that any effects would be insignificant for each year.

H.R. 1073 would establish new federal crimes relating to acts of violence committed on or against ships or maritime fixed platforms and criminal acts involving the use of nuclear materials. As a result, the government might be able to pursue cases that it otherwise would not be able to prosecute. CBO expects that H.R. 1073 would apply to a relatively small number of additional offenders, however, so any increase in costs for law enforcement, court proceedings, or prison operations would not be significant. Any such costs would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Because those prosecuted and convicted under H.R. 1073 could be subject to criminal fines, the federal government might collect additional fines if the legislation is enacted. Criminal fines are deposited as revenues in the Crime Victims Fund and later spent. CBO expects that any additional revenues and direct spending would not be significant because of the relatively small number of cases likely to be affected.

CBO has not reviewed H.R. 1073 for intergovernmental or private-sector mandates. Section 4 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act excludes from the application of that act any legislative provisions that are necessary for the ratification or implementation of international treaty obligations. CBO has determined that the bill falls within that exclusion.

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