



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

May 7, 2007

S. 1142

Coastal and Estuarine Land Protection Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
on April 25, 2007*

SUMMARY

S. 1142 would direct the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to establish a program to protect land near coastal areas and estuaries. Under the program, NOAA would make grants to coastal states that wish to purchase eligible lands or other property interests. For this purpose, the bill would authorize the appropriation of whatever amounts are necessary for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that carrying out the grant program authorized by S. 1142 would cost NOAA \$35 million in 2008 and \$400 million over the 2008-2012 period. (An additional \$100 million would be spent after 2012.) Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 1142 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). The bill would benefit states and local governments along the coasts; any costs they incur would result from complying with conditions for receiving federal assistance.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1142 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Estimated Authorization Level	100	100	100	100	100
Estimated Outlays	35	65	100	100	100

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 1142 will be enacted by the end of fiscal year 2007 and that the entire amounts estimated to be necessary to carry out the bill will be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012. Estimated outlays are based on historical patterns for similar grants made by NOAA.

Based on information provided by NOAA, CBO estimates that the agency would need about \$100 million annually to implement S. 1142. About 5 percent of this amount would be used to administer the grant program. The balance would be used to provide between 40 to 60 grants a year to states for land acquisition projects. This estimate is based on the number and size of proposals received by the agency under a very similar grant program that it has conducted under authority provided in annual appropriations acts since 2002.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 1142 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. The grant program authorized by the bill would require matching funds from participating governments. Coastal states would be able to allocate a portion of the grant funds received under the program to qualified local entities, including local governments, to further their coastal management programs. Any costs to those states, including matching funds, would result from complying with conditions for receiving federal assistance.

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