



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

June 13, 2007

**S. 506**

**High-Performance Green Buildings Act of 2007**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
on June 6, 2007*

**SUMMARY**

S. 506 would authorize the appropriation of \$40 million over the 2008-2012 period to make federal buildings more energy efficient, develop technologies that minimize adverse effects on the natural environment through structures known as “green buildings,” and provide environmental grants to schools. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 506 would cost \$7 million in 2008 and \$39 million over the 2008-2012 period. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 506 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). The bill would benefit state and local governments, and any costs they might incur would result from complying with conditions of federal assistance.

**ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 506 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 300 (natural resources and environment) and 800 (general government).

|   | By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars |      |      |      |      |
|---|--|------|------|------|------|
|   | 2008                                   | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
| <b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b> |  |      |      |      |      |
| Office of High-Performance Green Buildings          |  |      |      |      |      |
| Authorization Level                                 | 4                                      | 4    | 4    | 4    | 4    |
| Estimated Outlays                                   | 4                                      | 4    | 4    | 4    | 4    |
| Healthy High-Performance Schools                    |  |      |      |      |      |
| Estimated Authorization Level                       | 2                                      | 2    | 2    | 2    | 2    |
| Estimated Outlays                                   | 2                                      | 2    | 2    | 2    | 2    |
| Demonstration Project                               |  |      |      |      |      |
| Estimated Authorization Level                       | 2                                      | 2    | 2    | 2    | 2    |
| Estimated Outlays                                   | 2                                      | 2    | 2    | 2    | 2    |
| Total Changes                                       |  |      |      |      |      |
| Estimated Authorization Level                       | 8                                      | 8    | 8    | 8    | 8    |
| Estimated Outlays                                   | 7                                      | 8    | 8    | 8    | 8    |

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 506 will be enacted near the start of fiscal year 2008 and that amounts authorized will be appropriated beginning in 2008. Estimates of outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar programs. S. 506 would authorize the appropriation of \$40 million over the 2008-2012 period. Those amounts would be used to make federal buildings more energy efficient, develop green buildings, and provide environmental grants to schools.

### **Office of High-Performance Green Buildings**

Title I would authorize the appropriation of \$4 million annually over the 2008-2012 period to establish an Office of High-Performance Green Buildings within the General Services Administration to coordinate and promote green building technologies within the federal government. The office would identify green building standards, conduct research, outreach programs, and coordinate budget and procurement issues. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that the office activities would cost about \$20 million over the 2008-2012 period.

## **Healthy High-Performance Schools**

Title II would authorize the appropriation of \$10 million over the 2008-2012 period for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to award grants to states to assist schools in addressing environmental issues. In addition, the EPA would be required to develop voluntary guidelines for environmental hazards in schools. CBO expects that \$2 million would be provided each year over the 2008-2012 period. Appropriation of the authorized amount in such increments would result in discretionary spending of \$10 million over the five-year period.

## **Demonstration Project**

Title IV would authorize the appropriation of \$10 million over the 2008-2012 period to the Office of High-Performance Green Buildings to fund three demonstration projects at existing or proposed federal buildings for use as research tools for green building technologies. CBO expects that \$2 million would be provided each year over the 2008-2012 period. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amount in such increments, CBO estimates that the projects would cost \$10 million over the five-year period.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

S. 506 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$10 million in grants to build environmentally friendly schools and to remedy environmental problems at current schools. Any costs to state, local, or tribal governments would result from complying with conditions of federal assistance.

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