



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

September 12, 2007

S. 1780
Protecting Children from Indecent Programming Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
on July 19, 2007*

S. 1780 would require the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to maintain its current policy that a single word or image may constitute indecent programming. The FCC considers such actions to fall within its authority and levies penalties when violations occur. As a result, single words or images that are considered to be indecent, obscene, or profane can draw civil penalties (which are recorded in the budget as revenues). CBO estimates that enacting the bill would have no effect on revenues over the 2008-2017 period, and also would have no other impact on the budget.

According to the FCC, cases in which a single word or image are broadcast that would be considered obscene, indecent, or profane are very infrequent, but fines levied by the FCC for such actions have resulted in some court challenges by the broadcasters. This legislation would clarify the statutory basis for the FCC's current policy.

S. 1780 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on public or private entities. Because the bill would codify existing policy, it would not impose a new enforceable duty on public or private broadcasters.

The CBO contact for this estimate is Barbara Edwards. The estimate was approved by G. Thomas Woodward, Assistant Director for Tax Analysis.