



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

August 29, 2008

**S. 1911  
Toxic Chemical Exposure Reduction Act of 2007**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
on July 31, 2008*

S. 1911 would require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue a health advisory for trichloroethylene (TCE) in drinking water that fully protects susceptible populations, including pregnant women, infants, and children. (Trichloroethylene is a toxic liquid often used as a metal degreaser and is an ingredient in adhesives and paint removers.) EPA also would be required under this legislation to establish a regulation for the amount of TCE that is permissible in drinking water, and to develop an information system concerning the risk of inhaling TCE.

Based on information from EPA, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1911 would cost about \$5 million over the 2009-2011 period, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Such funding would be used to support 11 additional personnel and contractor costs needed to meet the requirements of this legislation.

Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

By requiring community water systems to disclose the potential health risks of exposure to TCE in annual consumer confidence reports, S. 1911 would impose an intergovernmental and private-sector mandate as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). Community water systems are currently required to report on health risks associated with TCE only when they violate the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for TCE. Based on information from industry experts, CBO estimates that the costs to provide the additional disclosures would be minimal and would not exceed the annual thresholds for intergovernmental or private-sector mandates (\$68 million and \$136 million in 2008, respectively, adjusted annually for inflation).

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Susanne S. Mehlman (for federal costs), Burke Doherty (for the state and local impact), and Amy Petz (for the private-sector impact). This estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.