



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

October 1, 1998

**S. 2309**

**Gateway Visitor Center Authorization Act of 1998**

*As reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
on September 25, 1998*

CBO estimates that implementing S. 2309 would cost less than \$1 million a year, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. S. 2309 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to execute an agreement with the Gateway Visitor Center Corporation under which this nonprofit organization would construct and operate a regional visitor center on Independence Mall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The bill would authorize the corporation to charge fees, sell food, merchandise, and tickets, and provide information, facilities, and services to visitors of Independence National Historical Park and other regional sites. Amounts earned from fees and sales would be used by the corporation to help pay for its operating expenses. The National Park Service (NPS) would participate in activities such as providing visitor information and facilities and carrying out interpretive programs.

Based on information provided by the NPS, and assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO expects that the agency would provide an annual contribution toward the operation of the center. The appropriate federal contribution has not yet been determined by the NPS, but CBO estimates that it could be several hundred thousand dollars a year. Some of the annual contribution may be offset by savings in operating expenses that may be realized when the NPS closes its existing visitor center at the park once the new Gateway Visitor Center becomes operational in fiscal year 2000.

S. 2309 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Paul N. Van de Water, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.