



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 19, 2000

H.R. 468

Saint Helena Island National Scenic Area Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on July 13, 2000*

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 468 would cost about \$3 million over the 2001-2005 period, subject to the appropriation of the estimated amounts. Because the legislation would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 468 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 468 would direct the Secretary of Agriculture to acquire almost 240 acres of privately owned land comprising most of Saint Helena Island in Lake Michigan to establish the Saint Helena Island National Scenic Area. H.R. 468 also would authorize the Secretary to acquire up to 10 acres of land, including improvements, on the mainland to provide access and facilities for the proposed scenic area. The acquired land would be managed as part of the Hiawatha National Forest. Once the Secretary has acquired half of the land authorized for the scenic area, H.R. 468 would direct the Secretary to develop a management plan for the area.

Based on information from the Forest Service and recent information from landowners on the island, CBO estimates that the agency would spend about \$2 million to acquire the land, plus another \$600,000 to establish and manage the scenic area, including developing a management plan for the island, constructing basic facilities, and surveying the area. Once the national scenic area is established, ongoing administrative costs would total about \$50,000 each year. Such spending would be subject to the appropriation of the necessary amounts.

On July 14, 1999, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 468 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on June 30, 1999. The two versions of this legislation are substantively the same. CBO's estimate of the cost to acquire the land on Saint Helena Island is now about \$500,000 higher than our estimate in June 1999.

The CBO staff contact is Megan Carroll. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.