



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

March 9, 1999

S. 422

**A bill to provide for Alaska state jurisdiction over small
hydroelectric projects**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on March 4, 1999*

The bill would direct the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to end its licensing and regulatory authority over certain hydroelectric projects in Alaska when the state has a comparable regulatory program in place for such projects.

CBO estimates that enacting this bill would have no net effect on the federal budget. S. 422 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments. The state's costs associated with establishing and carrying out a regulatory program for the hydroelectric projects affected by this bill would be voluntary.

The bill's provisions may have a minor impact on FERC's workload. Because FERC recovers 100 percent of its costs through user fees, any change in its administrative costs would be offset by an equal change in the fees that the commission charges. Hence, the bill would have no net budgetary impact.

Because FERC's administrative costs are limited in annual appropriations, enacting S. 422 would not affect direct spending or receipts. Therefore, pay-as-you go procedures would not apply to the bill.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Kim Cawley (for federal costs), and Lisa Cash Driskill (for the state and local impact). This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.