



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 9, 2002

S. 606

Ombudsman Reauthorization Act of 2002

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
on September 26, 2002*

SUMMARY

S. 606 would reauthorize the Office of the Ombudsman within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and would authorize the appropriation of \$18 million over the 2003-2007 period to support that office. The Office of the Ombudsman has been maintained since its authorization expired in 1988 and was most recently transferred to EPA's Office of the Inspector General.

Under S. 606, the new office would be an independent office within EPA and the director of the office (i.e., the Ombudsman) would be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The Ombudsman would have the authority to investigate citizen complaints about programs under EPA's jurisdiction and would have control over the office's budget and staff. CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would cost \$18 million over the 2003-2007 period, assuming appropriation of the specified amounts.

S. 606 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$18 million over the 2003-2007 period, assuming appropriation of the amounts authorized for each year. For this estimate, we assume the bill will be enacted near the beginning of fiscal year 2003. The estimated outlays are based on historical patterns for similar activities. The estimated budgetary impact of S. 606 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION^a					
Office of the Ombudsman					
Authorization Level	3	3	4	4	4
Estimated Outlays	3	3	4	4	4

a. EPA has not yet received a full-year appropriation for 2003. The Office of the Ombudsman received an appropriation of about \$1 million in 2002.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 606 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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