



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

November 3, 2004

S. 2647

Fritz Hollings National Ocean Policy and Leadership Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
on September 22, 2004*

SUMMARY

S. 2647 would establish a National Ocean Science Committee to consist of representatives from a number of federal agencies, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Department of the Navy, the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The new committee would be charged with developing a comprehensive strategy on ocean science, education, and technology. In addition, the bill would designate NOAA as the lead federal agency on ocean and atmospheric issues and would provide statutory authority for the agency, which was created administratively in 1970.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 2647 would cost \$285 million in fiscal year 2005 and about \$4 billion over the 2005-2009 period. We estimate that about \$1 billion a year would be spent after 2009 for ongoing efforts to implement the national strategy on oceans. Enacting S. 2647 would have no impact on revenues or direct spending.

S. 2647 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

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 2647 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 050 (national defense), 250 (general science, space, and technology), and 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Ocean Research					
Estimated Authorization Level	200	300	400	500	650
Estimated Outlays	130	240	340	450	580
Ocean Exploration					
Estimated Authorization Level	30	60	90	100	110
Estimated Outlays	20	40	70	90	100
Education, Technology, and Data Management					
Estimated Authorization Level	40	200	200	200	200
Estimated Outlays	20	140	180	190	200
Vessel Acquisition and Other Infrastructure Costs					
Estimated Authorization Level	280	280	280	280	280
Estimated Outlays	110	220	270	280	280
Total-National Strategy for Ocean Science, Education, and Technology					
Estimated Authorization Level	550	840	970	1,080	1,240
Estimated Outlays	280	640	860	1,010	1,160
Council on Ocean Stewardship					
Authorization Level	4	4	4	4	5
Estimated Outlays	2	3	4	4	4
NOAA Commissioned Corps					
Estimated Authorization Level	4	5	7	7	7
Estimated Outlays	3	5	6	7	8
Total Spending Under S. 2647					
Estimated Authorization Level	558	849	981	1,091	1,252
Estimated Outlays	285	648	870	1,021	1,172

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 2647 will be enacted by the end of calendar year 2004, and that amounts specified by the bill and estimated to be necessary will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Outlays are estimated on the basis of historical patterns for similar programs carried out by NOAA and other federal agencies involved in ocean science.

The estimate is based on information provided by NOAA, the Commission on Ocean Policy, and other federal agencies.

National Strategy for Ocean Science, Education, and Technology

S. 2647 would direct a multiagency committee to develop a national strategy on ocean science, education, and technology. It would require the new strategy to incorporate the recommendations of the Commission on Ocean Policy as presented in its recent report “An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century.”¹ The strategy would include plans for increasing federal spending for ocean exploration, technology development, and education and outreach, as well as for a doubling of federal spending for ocean research over five years. CBO estimates that implementing the bill in accordance with the commission’s recommendations would require the appropriation of \$550 million in 2005 and nearly \$4.7 billion over the 2005-2009 period. Most of those amounts—\$200 million in 2005, rising to \$650 million annually—would be used to double the ocean research budgets of agencies such as NOAA, the NSF, and NASA. That sum also includes \$30 million in 2005 and \$390 million over the 2005-2009 period that would be needed for new ocean exploration efforts to be carried out primarily by NOAA. Another \$40 million in 2005 and \$840 million over the 2005-2009 period would be needed for education and outreach, technology development, and data management. Finally, we estimate that about \$1.4 billion would be needed to acquire vessels and other equipment to support those activities. Assuming that such acquisitions would be made over a five-year period, CBO estimates that NOAA and other agencies would need a total of \$280 million annually through 2009 for that purpose.

Council on Ocean Stewardship

Section 301 would establish the Council on Ocean Stewardship to help coordinate interagency planning, budgeting, public outreach and education, and other activities to protect oceans. For this purpose, the bill would authorize the appropriation of between \$4 million and \$5 million for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2010.

NOAA Commissioned Corps

Section 203 would raise the number of members in the NOAA Commissioned Officers Corps from the current maximum of 299 to a minimum of 350. CBO estimates that funding the

1. U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, *An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century* (July 22, 2004), pp. G2-G12.

additional positions would require additional appropriations of \$4 million in 2005 and \$30 million over the 2005-2009 period.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 2647 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Deborah Reis

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Gregory Waring

Impact on the Private Sector: Karen Raupp

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Robert A. Sunshine

Assistant Director for Budget Analysis