



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

March 20, 2006

S. 1215

Coastal and Estuarine Land Protection Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
on March 16, 2006*

SUMMARY

S. 1215 would direct the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to establish a program to protect land near coastal areas and estuaries. Under the proposed new program, NOAA would make grants to coastal states that wish to purchase eligible lands or other property interests. For this purpose, the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$60 million for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2010. S. 1215 also would authorize the appropriation of an additional \$5 million for 2007 for a demonstration project to address the protection of regional watersheds.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1215 would cost the federal government \$210 million over the 2007-2011 period. We estimate that the remaining \$35 million authorized by the bill would be spent in 2012.

S. 1215 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). The bill would benefit states and local governments along the coasts; any costs they incur would result from complying with conditions for receiving federal assistance.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1215 is shown in the following table. For this estimate, CBO assumes that the entire amounts authorized by the bill will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on historical patterns for land acquisition grants made by other federal agencies. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Authorization Level	65	60	60	60	0
Estimated Outlays	10	30	50	60	60

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 1215 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. Much of the money authorized by the bill would fund grant programs that require matching funds from participating governments. Coastal states would be able to allocate a portion of the grant funds received under the program to qualified local entities, including local governments, to further their coastal management programs. Any costs to those states, including matching funds, would result from complying with conditions for receiving federal assistance.

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