



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 2, 2005

S. 378

Reducing Crime and Terrorism at America's Seaports Act of 2005

As reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on April 21, 2005

CBO estimates that implementing S. 378 would cost less than \$500,000 annually, from appropriated funds. Enacting the bill could affect direct spending and revenues, but CBO estimates that any such effects would not be significant. S. 378 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 378 would establish new federal offenses and increase existing penalties for criminal activities affecting the U.S. maritime industry, including the destruction of vessels or marine facilities. Because the bill would establish new federal crimes, the government would be able to pursue cases that it otherwise would not be able to prosecute. We expect that S. 378 would apply to a relatively small number of offenders, however, so any increase in costs for law enforcement, court proceedings, or prison operations would not be significant. Any such costs would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Because those prosecuted and convicted under S. 378 could be subject to civil and criminal fines, the federal government might collect additional fines if the legislation is enacted. Collections of civil fines are recorded in the budget as revenues. Criminal fines are recorded as revenues, then deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and later spent. CBO expects that any additional revenues and direct spending would not be significant because of the small number of cases affected.

S. 378 also would direct the Department of Justice, by no later than December 31, 2005, to record incidents of cargo theft as a separate category of crime in the department's Uniform Crime Reporting System. CBO estimates that implementing this provision would cost less than \$500,000 annually, from appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.