



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

July 26, 2007

H.R. 1389
Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Act

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
on July 19, 2007*

H.R. 1389 would establish a commission to encourage, plan, develop, coordinate, and execute programs, observances, grants, and activities commemorating the historic events associated with the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812. The commission would consist of 21 members and would have eight years to report to the Congress on its activities. Members would serve without pay but would be reimbursed for travel expenses. The legislation would allow the commission to make grants to communities, nonprofit organizations, and other groups to commemorate the anniversary. In addition, the commission could hire staff, use personnel from other federal agencies or state employees, and volunteers. The commission would terminate 90 days after submitting its final report. H.R. 1389 would direct the commission to prepare a strategic and annual performance plan for its activities.

Based on the cost of similar commissions, CBO estimates that the commission would spend around \$1 million annually over the 2008-2012 period. Assuming the appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost about \$7 million over the next five years. CBO assumes that the commission would hire a staff of four individuals and provide annual grant money to groups to develop programs related to the commemoration. Because H.R. 1389 would authorize the commission to accept and use gifts, the legislation could affect revenues and direct spending. CBO estimates, however, that any revenues from contributions and subsequent direct spending would be less than \$500,000 annually and would offset each other over the eight years of the commission's activities.

H.R. 1389 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. Any participation by state or local governments in programs or activities of this commission would be voluntary.

On May 22, 2007, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 1079, the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Act, as reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on May 21, 2007. S. 1079 would authorize appropriation of up to \$500,000 annually. The cost estimates reflect that difference in the two pieces of legislation.

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