



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 20, 2007

S. 1498

Captive Primate Safety Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
on July 31, 2007*

SUMMARY

S. 1498 would amend the Lacey Act to prohibit interstate and foreign trade of nonhuman primates. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$17 million over the 2008-2012 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. The bill could increase revenue collections and direct spending, but we estimate that any such changes would be insignificant.

S. 1498 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 1498 would impose a private-sector mandate, as defined in UMRA, on certain entities that handle nonhuman primates. CBO expects that the direct cost of the mandate would fall well below the annual threshold established by UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$131 million in 2007, adjusted for inflation).

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1498 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				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Estimated Authorization Level	2	3	4	4	4
Estimated Outlays	2	3	4	4	4

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

S. 1498 would make it illegal to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire, or purchase nonhuman primates (such as monkeys and apes). Violators of the proposed prohibition on interstate and foreign trade of such animals would be subject to criminal and civil penalties.

Based on information provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), CBO estimates that implementing S. 1498 would cost about \$4 million annually, primarily for additional staff to conduct inspections and investigations to enforce the legislation. CBO expects that the agency would take about three years to reach that level of effort. Thus, we estimate that the added duties for USFWS would cost about \$17 million over the 2008-2012 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

Enacting S. 1498 could increase revenues from civil and criminal fines. Based on information obtained from the USFWS about the relatively small number of violations likely to occur, CBO estimates that any such increase would be less than \$500,000 annually. Moreover, such changes would be fully offset by increases in direct spending from the Crime Victims Fund (where criminal fines are deposited) or the resource management account of the USFWS (where civil fines are deposited and used for rewards to informers and for other program costs).

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

S. 1498 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR

S. 1498 would impose a private-sector mandate, as defined in UMRA, by prohibiting anyone from importing, exporting, transporting, selling, receiving, acquiring, or purchasing nonhuman primates in interstate or foreign commerce. Several groups would be exempted from the prohibition, including: entities that are licensed or registered and inspected by a federal agency; a state college, university, or agency, or certain persons licensed by the state; other groups such as accredited wildlife sanctuaries that qualify under the bill's criteria; and individuals that have custody of nonhuman primates solely for the purpose of transporting them to an exempted entity.

The direct cost of the mandate would be the cost of becoming licensed, registered, or accredited for those who are not required to do so under current law. Importers, dealers, exhibitors, transporters, and research facilities that handle nonhuman primates are currently required to obtain a permit or license, or register with a federal agency. In addition, based on information from wildlife sanctuaries, CBO expects that few sanctuaries would seek accreditation, which has a minimal cost. Consequently, CBO expects that the direct cost of complying with the mandate would fall well below the annual threshold established by UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$131 million in 2007, adjusted for inflation).

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