



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

November 6, 2009

**S. 1755
Amateur Radio Emergency Communications
Enhancement Act of 2009**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs on November 4, 2009*

CBO estimates that implementing S. 1755 would have no significant cost over the next five years. Enacting this legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 1755 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The bill would direct the Department of Homeland Security to conduct a study on the uses and capabilities of the Amateur Radio Service during and after a disaster or emergency. The study would be completed within 180 days of enactment of this legislation. Based on the costs of similar studies, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1755 would cost less than \$500,000, subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The Amateur Radio Service is a voluntary organization made up of qualified people with a nonmonetary interest in radio. Amateur radio operators are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission based on skill and knowledge. Licensed operators may use a number of small, shared frequency bands to communicate through voice, teleprinting, telegraphy, facsimile, and television. During emergencies, amateur radio operators provide alerts and other communications in place of and in tandem with federal, state, and local government agencies and private relief organizations, such as the American Red Cross.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Daniel Hoople. This estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.