



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

April 6, 2010

**S. 2881**  
**FCC Commissioners' Technical Resource Enhancement Act**  
*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
on March 24, 2010*

**SUMMARY**

S. 2881 would authorize each Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to appoint an electrical engineer or computer scientist to his or her staff. The bill also would authorize the appropriation of \$1 million for fiscal years 2011 and 2012 for the FCC, in cooperation with the National Academy of Sciences, to undertake a study of the adequacy of the FCC's technical and engineering resources to support decision making.

Based on information from the FCC, CBO estimates that implementing S. 2881 would cost \$7 million over the 2011-2015 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply to this legislation because it would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 2881 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

**ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 2881 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 370 (commerce and housing credit).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2011-2015
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	

**CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION**

Estimated Authorization Level	2	2	1	1	1	7
Estimated Outlays	2	2	1	1	1	7

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2010, that the necessary amounts will be appropriated each year, and that spending will follow historical patterns for similar activities.

S. 2881 would authorize the FCC to appoint an electrical engineer or computer scientist to the staff of each of the agency's Commissioners. The bill also would authorize the appropriation of \$1 million in fiscal years 2011 and 2012 to evaluate the Commission's technical and engineering resources to determine whether it has adequate resources to evaluate the technical aspects of its rulemaking decisions.

Based on information from the FCC, CBO estimates that implementing S. 2881 would increase spending subject to appropriation by \$7 million over the 2011-2015 period. Approximately \$1 million per year would be attributed to cost of salaries and overhead for the Commissioners' additional staff.

**PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

S. 2881 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

### **ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

Federal Costs: Susan Willie

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Elizabeth Cove Delisle

Impact on the Private Sector: Sam Wice

### **ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:**

Theresa Gullo

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis