



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

September 2, 2010

**S. 3335**

**Earmark Transparency Act**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security  
and Governmental Affairs on July 28, 2010*

S. 3335 would require the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate to create a Web site within 18 months that would include all Congressionally directed spending items, limited tax benefits, and limited tariff benefits. The legislation also would establish many uniform reporting requirements for this information, including the name of the beneficiary, the amount requested, and the amount approved in the final bill. Finally, the legislation would allow any Senator to transfer unspent funds from fiscal years 2010 and 2011 from Official Personnel and Office Expense Accounts to the office of the Secretary of the Senate to pay for the cost of the Web site.

Based on information from the House and Senate as well as the experiences of other agencies and the Office of Management and Budget in creating similar information systems, CBO estimates that this effort would cost \$4 million over the 2011-2015 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Most of the initial costs would be for coordinating consistent procedures for collecting information by the House and the Senate. Additional personnel or contract support would be needed to process and verify information, respond to inquiries, resolve data errors, enhance system capabilities, and explain how to use the system. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

S. 3335 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 CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.