



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

November 1, 2011

H.R. 991

Polar Bear Conservation and Fairness Act of 2011

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on October 5, 2011

H.R. 991 would require the Secretary of the Interior to issue permits to hunters seeking to import polar bear remains from Canada that were acquired during hunts that took place prior to the polar bear being listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Thus, only hunters who submitted applications for permits to import such remains prior to May 15, 2008, the date the polar bear was listed under ESA, would be eligible to receive a permit under the bill.

Based on information from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, CBO estimates that processing and issuing the roughly 40 permits that would be affected by the legislation would have a negligible impact on the federal budget. Enacting H.R. 991 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

H.R. 991 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 Jeff LaFave. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.