



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 20, 2011

S. 739

A bill to authorize the Architect of the Capitol to establish battery charging stations for privately owned vehicles in parking areas under the jurisdiction of the Senate at no net cost to the federal government

*As reported by the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration
on May 12, 2011*

Under current law, personal expenses are not payable from appropriations without specific statutory authority. S. 739 would provide such authority by authorizing the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) to use funds appropriated for fiscal year 2011 to install battery recharging stations that would allow Senate employees to replenish the batteries that power plug-in electric vehicles. In addition, the bill would require those employees to pay fees large enough to reimburse the AOC for the costs of installing and operating those stations and for the electricity they use.

CBO estimates that enacting S. 739 would increase direct spending by allowing the AOC to spend existing balances that CBO expects would otherwise not be spent under current law; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. Based on information from the AOC, CBO estimates that the agency would spend about \$6,000 to install six recharging stations under S. 739. However, we estimate that amount would be offset in future years by increased offsetting collections generated from monthly fees that the AOC would charge to Senate employees who use the recharging stations. S. 739 would not affect revenues.

CBO also estimates that spending in future years to install additional charging stations would total less than \$10,000 annually, subject to appropriation of the necessary amounts. Future costs could be higher if the number of plug-in cars increases and if more advanced recharging stations are needed. Fees to use those charging stations would recover the installation cost over several years.

S. 739 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.