



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

July 8, 2011

S.J. Res. 20

A joint resolution authorizing the limited use of United States Armed Forces in support of the NATO mission in Libya

As reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on June 29, 2011

The joint resolution would authorize the limited use of U.S. Armed Forces in support of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO's) mission in Libya for up to one year after the resolution's enactment. S.J. Res 20 also would require the President to provide the Congress with monthly reports related to U.S. efforts in Libya, and to continue investigating any terrorist attacks attributable to the government of Muammar Qaddafi. CBO estimates that enacting the joint resolution would not significantly affect federal spending in this fiscal year or in fiscal year 2012.

U.S. military forces currently are supporting NATO's actions in Libya and CBO expects that such support will continue into next year if NATO further extends its operations. (NATO currently has extended its operations in Libya through September of this year.) The Administration estimates that from March 2011, when the United States began military operations, through September, incremental costs to the Department of Defense (DoD) will total about \$800 million.

If NATO extends its operations, ongoing costs to DoD in 2012 would remain at about that same level, roughly \$100 million per month, assuming operations continue at their current pace. Because CBO expects that DoD will probably incur such costs, under that scenario, in the absence of the authority contained in section 2 of the joint resolution (authorizing the limited use of U.S. Armed Forces for up to one year), we estimate that enactment of that section would not affect federal spending during the next year. CBO has no basis for determining whether or to what extent the United States will be engaged in military actions in Libya in the period beyond next year.

Enacting the joint resolution would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

S.J. Res. 20 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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