



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

July 22, 2013

H.R. 1961

**A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to extend the exemption
from the fire-retardant material construction requirement
for vessels operating within the boundary line**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
on July 18, 2013*

In 2008, the Congress removed an exemption in law that allowed certain vessels constructed of wood and containing stateroom accommodations to carry more than 50 passengers. H.R. 1961 would reinstate that exemption and permit those vessels to exceed the 50-passenger limit until 2028. CBO estimates that there is one vessel affected by the exemption, a historic steamboat currently based in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

CBO estimates that enacting the legislation would have no impact on the federal budget because the United States Coast Guard would continue to inspect the vessel under the provisions of the bill or under current law. Enacting H.R. 1961 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

H.R. 1961 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 Sarah Puro. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.