



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 17, 2015

### **S. 1297**

### **U.S. Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
on May 20, 2015*

S. 1297 would authorize the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to continue to maintain and operate the International Space Station (ISS) through 2024. Currently, NASA is authorized to engage in those activities through 2020. The legislation would require the Department of Transportation (DOT) and NASA to submit various reports to the Congress regarding commercial space operations and services, industry practices, as well as to assess potential liabilities associated with commercial space launches. In addition, the legislation would allow greater flexibility to private firms seeking launch licenses from DOT and it would encourage advances in launch safety regulations.

CBO estimates that implementing S. 1297 would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2016-2020 period and about \$14.3 billion over the 2016-2025 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting S. 1297 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

S. 1297 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary effects of S. 1297 are shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 250 (general science, space, and technology).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars										2016-	2016-
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2020	2025
<b>NET CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APROPRIATION</b>												
Estimated Authorization Level	*	0	0	0	0	3,470	3,549	3,627	3,710	0	0	14,356
Estimated Outlays	*	0	0	0	0	2,568	3,459	3,605	3,687	963	0	14,282

Note: \* = Less than \$500,000.

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

S. 1297 would authorize NASA to continue the ISS program during the 2020-2024 period. In 2014, NASA spent about \$3 billion on ISS operations. CBO’s estimate of the cost to continue ISS operations are based on historical funding and spending patterns, including an adjustment for anticipated inflation. Currently, NASA is authorized to fund the ISS through FY 2020; therefore additional spending by the federal government for that program would begin in FY 2021, assuming appropriation of necessary amounts. CBO estimates that preparing the additional reports to the Congress would cost less than \$500,000 in 2016. Enacting S. 1297 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

**PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

## **ESTIMATED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

S. 1297 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

### **ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

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