



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

July 28, 2016

**S. 1717**

**A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to exempt old vessels that only operate within inland waterways from the fire-retardant materials requirement if the owners of such vessels make annual structural alterations to at least 10 percent of the areas of the vessels that are not constructed of fire-retardant materials**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,  
and Transportation on June 29, 2016*

The U.S. Coast Guard administers a wide range of maritime safety laws and is responsible for inspecting vessels to ensure compliance with safety standards. Under current law, passenger vessels with overnight accommodations for more than 50 passengers must be constructed of fire-retardant materials. S. 1717 would amend current law to exempt from that requirement (through 2028) vessels that operated before 1968, provided that owners operate them only within inland waterways and make certain structural alterations to them each year. CBO estimates that the proposed exemption would affect one vessel, a historic steamboat currently located in Louisiana.

CBO estimates that enacting S. 1717 would have no effect on the federal budget because the proposed exemption would not affect the U.S. Coast Guard's costs to meet its underlying responsibility to inspect vessels; spending for such inspections is provided in annual appropriation acts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. CBO estimates that enacting S. 1717 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

S. 1717 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 Megan Carroll. The estimate was approved by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.