



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

April 17, 2015

S. 808
Surface Transportation Board Reauthorization Act of 2015

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
on March 25, 2015*

SUMMARY

S. 808 would authorize appropriations for the programs of the Surface Transportation Board (STB), establish the STB as a government agency independent of the Department of Transportation (DOT), and authorize other changes in the agency's operations. Based on information from the STB, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$198 million over the 2016-2020 period, assuming the appropriation of the amounts authorized and estimated to be necessary.

Enacting S. 808 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

S. 808 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary effect of S. 808 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 400 (transportation).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2016- 2020
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Operation of the Surface Transportation Board						
Authorization Level	33	35	36	36	36	176
Estimated Outlays	30	34	36	36	36	172
Additional Activities by the Surface Transportation Board						
Estimated Authorization Level	6	6	6	6	6	30
Estimated Outlays	3	5	6	6	6	26
Total Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	39	41	42	42	42	206
Estimated Outlays	33	39	42	42	42	198

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes the bill will be enacted late in fiscal year 2015 and that the amounts authorized and estimated to be necessary will be appropriated.

S. 808 would specifically authorize the appropriation of an additional \$176 million for the operation of the STB over the 2016-2020 period. The STB received an appropriation of \$31 million in fiscal year 2015.

According to the STB, the requirements in the bill to expand the number of board members and their associated staff, to allow it to initiate proceedings against companies, and to make it independent of DOT would impose additional costs on the board. CBO estimates those additional responsibilities would cost \$6 million a year in addition to the amounts specifically authorized in the bill. Those additional amounts would primarily cover salaries and benefits for additional employees needed over the 2016-2017 period and to modify information technology systems. In total, CBO estimates that implementing S. 808 would cost \$198 million over the 2016-2020 period.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 808 contains no intergovernmental mandates or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

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