



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 19, 2009

H.R. 3618 Clean Hull Act of 2009

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
on September 24, 2009*

H.R. 3618 would implement the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships, 2001. Under the bill, both the U.S. Coast Guard and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would establish regulations to enforce the convention, which addresses water pollution caused by paints and other treatments to eliminate unwanted organisms from ship hulls.

Based on information provided by the two agencies, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3618 would have no significant effect on the federal budget. We expect that EPA costs (to enforce regulations regarding the manufacture and distribution of hull treatments that are harmful to the environment) and Coast Guard expenses (to enforce regulations on vessel owners or operators that use such treatments) would be minimal because the agencies already have enforcement responsibilities under the convention. Those responsibilities would not change significantly under the bill.

The bill also would establish new criminal and civil penalties. CBO estimates that any new revenues resulting from penalties or related direct spending (of criminal penalties from the Crime Victims Fund) would be less than \$500,000 annually.

CBO has not reviewed H.R. 3618 for the presence of intergovernmental or private-sector mandates because section 4 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act excludes from the application of that act legislative provisions that are necessary for the ratification or implementation of international treaty obligations. CBO has determined that the legislation falls within that exclusion because it would implement an international treaty.

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