



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

January 6, 2010

**S. 1562
Arctic Ocean Research and Science Policy Review Act of 2009**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation on December 17, 2009*

SUMMARY

S. 1562 would authorize the appropriation of \$20 million a year over the 2010-2015 period for a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) program to research and monitor aerosols (fine particles of organic or inorganic materials in the atmosphere). The bill also would authorize the appropriation of \$2 million in 2010 to assess existing research programs focused on portions of the Arctic Ocean off the coast of Alaska.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1562 would cost \$89 million over the 2010-2014 period and \$33 million after 2014. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 1562 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 impact of S. 1562 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2010-2014
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Aerosol Research and Monitoring Program						
Authorization Level	20	20	20	20	20	100
Estimated Outlays	10	17	20	20	20	87
Assess Arctic Ocean Research						
Authorization Level	2	0	0	0	0	2
Estimated Outlays	1	1	0	0	0	2
Total Changes						
Authorization Level	22	20	20	20	20	102
Estimated Outlays	11	18	20	20	20	89

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted early in calendar year 2010 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar NOAA programs.

S. 1562 would authorize the appropriation of \$20 million a year over the 2010-2015 period for a NOAA program to research and monitor the presence of aerosols, particularly black carbon (a light-absorbing aerosol resulting from the burning of fossil fuels), in the atmosphere. Of those amounts, NOAA would receive \$10 million a year to administer the program and \$10 million a year to fund grants aimed at reducing the impact of aerosols on the global climate. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the program would cost \$87 million over the 2010-2014 period and \$33 million after 2014.

S. 1562 also would authorize the appropriation of \$2 million in 2010 for NOAA to fund a National Research Council study to assess existing research programs focused on portions of the Arctic Ocean off the coast of Alaska. Upon receipt of the completed study, the Secretary of Commerce would be required to submit a report to the Congress describing the council's findings and recommendations, including a research plan for those portions of the Arctic Ocean. Based on information from the National Research Council, CBO estimates that conducting the study would cost about \$1 million a year over the 2010-2011 period.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 1562 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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