



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

June 18, 2008

H.R. 3981

Preserve America and Save America's Treasures Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on June 11, 2008

SUMMARY

H.R. 3981 would authorize appropriations totaling \$75 million annually for two grant programs administered by the National Park Service (NPS). Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3981 would cost \$300 million over the 2009-2013 period.

H.R. 3981 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 H.R. 3981 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					2009-
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2013
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Authorization Level	75	75	75	75	75	375
Estimated Outlays	25	50	75	75	75	300

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 3981 will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2008 and that the authorized amounts will be provided as specified in the bill. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for the two programs.

H.R. 3981 would authorize the appropriation of \$25 million a year through 2013 for the Preserve America program and \$50 million a year indefinitely for the Save America's Treasures program. Those programs fund grants to states, local governments, and other eligible entities for historic preservation and similar activities. For fiscal year 2008, the NPS received appropriations totaling \$20 million for the two grant programs.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 3981 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The bill would benefit those governments by authorizing grants for historic preservation; any costs to those entities would be incurred voluntarily.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On May 19, 2008, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 2262, the Preserve America and Save America's Treasures Act, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on May 7, 2008. S. 2262 and H.R. 3981 are very similar, but the House bill would authorize appropriations through fiscal year 2013 for the Preserve America program, while the Senate bill would authorize appropriations indefinitely for both programs. The estimated total cost of the two pieces of legislation over the 2009-2013 period is the same.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

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