



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 9, 2013

S. 375

Senate Campaign Disclosure Parity Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration
on July 24, 2013*

S. 375 would amend the Federal Election Campaign Act to require all Senate election-related designations, statements, and reports to be filed with the Federal Election Commission (FEC) in an electronic format. Currently, that information is filed on paper with the Senate, copied, and transmitted to the FEC where it is then converted to an electronic format. Based on information from the FEC and the Secretary of the Senate, CBO estimates that implementing S. 375 would reduce administrative costs by about \$500,000 annually, assuming future discretionary appropriations are reduced.

S. 375 also could affect federal revenues by increasing the collection of fines and penalties from violations of campaign finance laws. Such collections are recorded in the budget as revenues. Therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply to the bill; however, CBO estimates that any additional collections of penalties and fines resulting from this legislation would not be significant.

S. 375 contains no intergovernmental mandates, as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA), and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 375 would impose a private-sector mandate, as defined in UMRA, on candidates for the office of U.S. Senator, the principal campaign committee of such candidates, and the Republican and Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committees. The bill would require those entities to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic format directly with the FEC. Under current law, Senate candidates and their political organizations file campaign-related disclosure materials in paper form with the Secretary of the Senate, who then forwards the documents to the FEC. CBO estimates that the incremental cost, if any, to file the forms electronically would be minimal and would fall well below the annual threshold established by UMRA (\$150 million in 2013, adjusted annually for inflation).

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Matthew Pickford and Maggie Morrissey (for federal costs) and Paige Piper/Bach (for private-sector impact). The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.