



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

November 13, 2007

H.R. 2537 **Beach Protection Act of 2007**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
on October 31, 2007*

SUMMARY

H.R. 2537 would authorize the appropriation of \$40 million a year over the 2008-2012 period for the water quality program that benefits coastal states under the Clean Water Act. Under this program, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides grants to state or local governments to support their efforts to monitor the quality of coastal waters and notify the public when beach water does not meet established standards. This legislation also would authorize the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary to manage the water quality program through 2012.

Assuming the appropriation of the necessary funds, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2537 would cost \$24 million in 2008 and \$186 million over the 2008-2012 period. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 2537 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. 2537 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				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Spending Under Current Law					
Budget Authority ^a	11	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	11	0	0	0	0
Proposed Changes					
Administrative Support					
Estimated Authorization Level	*	1	1	1	1
Estimated Outlays	*	1	1	1	1
Beach Protection Grants					
Estimated Authorization Level	30	40	40	40	40
Estimated Outlays	24	38	40	40	40
Total Changes					
Estimated Authorization Level	30	41	41	41	41
Estimated Outlays	24	39	41	41	41
Spending Under H.R. 2537					
Estimated Authorization Level ^a	41	41	41	41	41
Estimated Outlays	35	39	41	41	41

Note: * = less than \$500,000.

a. The 2008 level is CBO's current estimate of budget authority and outlays for grants and administrative expenses to support EPA's program to protect beaches under Public Law 110-92, a joint resolution making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2008, and other purposes. CBO estimates budget authority provided under such continuing resolutions on an annualized basis. (That total of \$11 million was also provided for 2007.)

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 2537 will be enacted before the end of calendar year 2007 and that the necessary funds will be appropriated for each year.

The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$40 million annually over the 2008-2012 period for grants to states to implement beach water quality and public notification programs. CBO estimates that, under the current continuing resolution for fiscal year 2008 (Public Law 110-92), \$10 million will be provided for grants in 2008 (on an annualized basis); thus, we estimate that implementing this legislation would require the appropriation of an additional \$30 million in 2008 and \$40 million in each subsequent year. Based on historical spending patterns for those

grants, CBO estimates that providing the grants would cost \$182 million over the 2008-2012 period.

H.R. 2537 also would authorize the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary for EPA to manage the program through 2012. Assuming appropriations for such administrative activities would continue at the estimated 2008 level under the current continuing resolution, CBO estimates that implementing the program would cost about \$1 million a year over the 2009-2012 period. In total, CBO estimates that outlays resulting from the appropriations for grants and administrative activities would sum to \$186 million over the 2008-2012 period.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 2537 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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