



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

October 21, 2011

**H.R. 1299
Secure Border Act of 2011**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Homeland Security
on September 21, 2011*

H.R. 1299 would require the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), within 60 days of the bill's enactment and annually thereafter, to submit to the Congress a report on staffing levels at U.S. ports of entry. Within 180 days of enactment, DHS would have to devise a comprehensive strategy to gain control of United States borders and develop metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of security measures at ports of entry. In addition, H.R. 1299 would require a Department of Energy (DOE) national laboratory to evaluate the port security metrics developed by DHS.

In recent years, DHS has made considerable planning and operational efforts to gain control of U.S. borders and has collaborated with DOE to identify ways to improve border and port security. CBO expects that many of the departmental activities that are currently underway would be useful in meeting the bill's reporting requirements and deadlines. Thus, we estimate that implementing H.R. 1299 would cost less than \$500,000 annually from appropriated funds. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

H.R. 1299 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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