



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

December 14, 2009

### **S. 1397** **Electronic Device Recycling Research and Development Act**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Health  
on December 10, 2009*

#### **SUMMARY**

S. 1397 would authorize appropriations for the Environmental Protection Agency to provide grants to consortia and institutions of higher education to support research and projects related to the recycling of electronic devices, such as computers, printers, and copiers. This legislation also would authorize appropriations for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to develop a database of alternative materials for use in electronic devices and for EPA to conduct its own engineering research and demonstration projects.

CBO estimates that implementing S. 1397 would cost \$14 million in 2011 and \$109 million over the 2011-2014 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 1397 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). Any costs to state, local, or tribal governments would result from complying with conditions of assistance.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1397 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 300 (natural resources and environment) and 370 (commerce and housing credit).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2010- 2014
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Grants to Consortia to Address Environmental Impact of Electronic Devices						
Authorization Level	0	18	20	22	0	60
Estimated Outlays	0	7	16	21	13	57
Funding to Support Engineering Research and Demonstration Projects						
Authorization Level	0	10	10	10	0	30
Estimated Outlays	0	4	9	10	6	29
Grants to Develop Engineering Curriculum						
Authorization Level	0	5	5	5	0	15
Estimated Outlays	0	2	4	5	3	15
NIST Database Development						
Authorization Level	0	3	3	3	0	9
Estimated Outlays	0	1	3	3	2	9
Total Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	0	36	38	40	0	114
Estimated Outlays	0	14	32	39	24	109

Note: NIST = National Institute of Standards and Technology.

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 1397 will be enacted before the end of 2010, that the specified amounts will be appropriated in each year starting in 2011, and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for similar programs. CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would cost \$109 million over the 2011-2014 period.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

S. 1397 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. The bill would provide grants to institutions of higher education, including public colleges and universities, to conduct research and develop curricula related to improving the recycling of electronic devices. Any costs to state, local, or tribal governments would result from complying with conditions of federal assistance.

## **PREVIOUS CBO COST ESTIMATE**

On March 30, 2009, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 1580, the Electric Device Recycling Research and Development Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Science and Technology on March 25, 2009. Both pieces of legislation are similar, though S. 1397 includes an additional authorization of appropriations for EPA to fund its own engineering research and demonstration projects. That difference between the two pieces of legislation is reflected in CBO's cost estimates.

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