



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

Revised November 9, 2010

S. 2881

FCC Commissioners' Technical Resource Enhancement Act

*As reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
on August 5, 2010*

S. 2881 would authorize each Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to appoint an electrical engineer or computer scientist to his or her staff. The bill also would authorize the appropriation of \$1 million for fiscal years 2011 and 2012 for the FCC, in cooperation with the National Academy of Sciences, to undertake a study on the adequacy of the FCC's technical and engineering resources to support decisionmaking.

Based on information from the FCC, CBO estimates that implementing S. 2881 would have a gross cost of \$7 million over the 2011-2015 period, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Approximately \$1 million per year would be attributed to the cost of salaries and overhead for the Commissioners' additional staff. Under current law, the FCC is authorized to collect fees from the telecommunications industry sufficient to offset the cost of its regulatory programs. CBO has determined that the costs incurred under S. 2881 would be reimbursed through such fee collections. Therefore, CBO estimates that the net budgetary impact of S. 2881 would be insignificant. Pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply to this legislation because it would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 2881 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

On April 6, 2010, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 2881, as ordered reported by the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on March 24, 2010. That estimate did not recognize that funds appropriated to implement the bill would be offset by additional fees collected under the FCC's current authority. By correcting that mistake, CBO now estimates that the net cost of implementing the bill would be insignificant.

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