



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

July 28, 2009

S. 649

Radio Spectrum Inventory Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
on July 8, 2009*

SUMMARY

S. 649 would require the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to conduct an inventory of the license-holders and users of certain frequencies of the radio broadcast spectrum. The agencies would be required to complete the inventory within 180 days of enactment of the bill and to make the results available to the public on the Internet.

Based on information from NTIA and FCC, CBO estimates that implementing S. 649 would cost \$22 million over the 2010-2014 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. CBO estimates that enacting S. 649 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 649 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 649 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 370 (commerce and housing credit).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2010-
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2014
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Estimated Authorization Level	8	4	4	4	4	24
Estimated Outlays	6	4	4	4	4	22

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes the bill will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2009 and that the necessary amounts will be appropriated each year.

S. 649 would require the two federal agencies responsible for managing the telecommunications spectrum (NTIA for federal government use and FCC for commercial and nonfederal use) to conduct an inventory of the license-holders and users of certain radio frequencies that they manage. The inventory would be completed within 180 days of enactment of the bill and would be updated at least every two years. The bill also would require the agencies to make the results of the inventory available to the public on the Internet and to update that information as changes occur.

Based on information from NTIA and FCC, CBO estimates that implementing S. 649 would cost \$22 million over the 2010-2014 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Most of that cost would be incurred to update the databases that track information about the users of each spectrum band and to develop an Internet-based system to present up-to-date information to the public.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 649 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

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