



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

January 13, 2012

### **S. 1134** **St. Croix River Crossing Project Authorization Act**

*As reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
on December 16, 2011*

#### **SUMMARY**

S. 1134 would waive section 7 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to permit the construction of a bridge over the St. Croix River between Minnesota and Wisconsin. Allowing construction of the bridge would permit those states to spend Federal-Aid Highway funds appropriated and designated exclusively for construction of that bridge, resulting in an increase in direct spending of about \$8 million. The bill also would rescind \$8 million from the Department of the Interior (DOI) franchise fund, which is used by the department to perform certain administrative tasks for federal agencies on a contract basis. As a result, CBO estimates that enacting the bill would have no significant net impact on direct spending over the 2012-2022 period.

Pay-as-you-go procedures apply because enacting the legislation would affect direct spending. Enacting the bill would not affect revenues.

S. 1134 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

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

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1134 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 300 (natural resources and environment) and 400 (transportation).

By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars													
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2012-2017	2012-2022
<b>CHANGES IN DIRECT SPENDING</b>													
Highway Spending													
Estimated Budget Authority	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	8
Estimated Outlays	0	2	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	8
Franchise Fund													
Estimated Budget Authority	-8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-8	-8
Estimated Outlays	0	-2	-2	-2	-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	-8	-8
Total Changes													
Estimated Budget Authority	-8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	0	0	2	-1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted early in 2012. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar activities. CBO estimates that enacting the bill would have no significant net impact on direct spending over the 2012-2022 period.

### Highway Spending

Under section 7 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the National Park Service has determined that constructing a bridge over the St. Croix River between Minnesota and Wisconsin would have an adverse effect on the river. As a result, federal agencies are prohibited from obligating any additional funds or providing any necessary permits to construct that bridge. By waiving section 7, S. 1134 would permit construction of the bridge and would allow Minnesota and Wisconsin to use \$8 million of Federal-Aid Highway funds designated exclusively for that purpose.

### Franchise Fund

S. 1134 would rescind \$8 million dollars from the DOI franchise fund. That fund is used by DOI when entering into contracts with federal agencies to provide acquisition, consulting, and performance-management services. The fund contains amounts transferred to it by other agencies to pay for services as well as amounts collected from fees paid by those agencies. Because the fund has a legal obligation to use amounts transferred into the fund by other agencies to perform the services for which the funds were provided, only amounts collected from fees are available for rescission. Based on information from DOI, CBO estimates that the fund contains more than \$8 million in fee collections that are unobligated

and that those amounts would be spent over the 2013-2016 period under current law; therefore, we estimate that enacting the rescission in S. 1134 would reduce outlays by \$8 million over that period.

## **PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS**

The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 establishes budget-reporting and enforcement procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or revenues. The net changes in outlays that are subject to those pay-as-you-go procedures are shown in the following table.

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**CBO Estimate of Pay-As-You-Go Effects for S. 1134, the St. Croix River Crossing Project Authorization Act, as reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on December 16, 2011**

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	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars												
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2012-2017	2012-2022
<b>NET INCREASE OR DECREASE (-) IN THE DEFICIT</b>													
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact	0	0	2	-1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

S. 1134 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

## **PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE**

CBO provided a cost estimate for H.R. 850, a bill to facilitate a proposed project in the Lower St. Croix Wild and Scenic River, and for other purposes, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on October 5, 2011. Unlike S. 1134, H.R. 850 did not contain a rescission from the DOI franchise fund. CBO estimated that enacting H.R. 850 would cost \$8 million.

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