



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

January 10, 2014

**S. 653
Near East and South Central Asia Religious Freedom Act of 2013**

*As reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
on December 18, 2013*

S. 653 would authorize the appropriation of \$1 million each year over the 2013-2017 period for the President to appoint a Special Envoy within the Department of State. The envoy and his staff would be responsible for protecting religious minorities in the countries of the Near East and South Central Asia.

Assuming appropriation of the specified amounts over the 2014-2017 period, CBO estimates that implementing S. 653 would cost \$4 million over the 2014-2018 period. Pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply to this legislation because it would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 653 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.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Sunita D'Monte. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.