



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 24, 2013

S. 256

A bill to amend Public Law 93-435 with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands, providing parity with Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on May 16, 2013*

CBO estimates that enacting S. 256 would have no significant effect on the federal budget. The bill would convey ownership of submerged lands to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) from the mean high tide seaward to the point that is three geographical miles from its coast line. The legislation also would include CNMI among the islands where the United States may establish a naval defensive perimeter. Finally, S. 256 would amend the process for changing the minimum wage in American Samoa and CNMI.

Based on information from the Department of the Interior, CBO estimates that implementing S. 256 would have no significant cost to the federal government. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

S. 256 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

On May 2, 2013, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 573, a bill to amend Public Law 93-435 with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands, providing parity with Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on April 24, 2013. The two pieces of legislation are similar, and the CBO cost estimates are the same.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford, who can be reached at 226-2860. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.