



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

August 24, 2009

**S. 30
Truth in Caller ID Act of 2009**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation on August 5, 2009*

S. 30 would amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit caller identification services (known as Caller ID) from transmitting misleading or inaccurate information with the intent to defraud or cause harm. Caller ID allows consumers to see the names and telephone numbers of incoming calls. Prohibitions under the bill would apply to both traditional telephone and voice over Internet protocol services.

Based on information from the FCC, CBO expects that developing and enforcing regulations required under the bill will cost about \$1 million annually, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Furthermore, under current law the FCC is authorized to collect fees from the telecommunications industry sufficient to offset the cost of its regulatory program. Therefore, CBO estimate the net budgetary impact of S. 30 would be negligible.

Enacting S. 30 could increase federal revenues and direct spending by increasing collections of civil, criminal, and forfeiture penalties for violations of the Caller ID prohibitions. All such penalties are recorded in the budget as revenues. Collections of criminal penalties are deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and spent in subsequent years. CBO estimates that any increase in revenues and direct spending that would result from enacting the bill would not be significant because of the relatively small number of cases likely to be involved.

S. 30 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. The bill would allow states to bring civil actions on behalf of their residents in district courts, but require them to notify the FCC of those actions. The FCC would be allowed to intervene in such actions. Any costs to states would be incurred voluntarily.

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