



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

August 9, 2007

S. 1429

A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reauthorize the provision of technical assistance to small public water systems

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
on July 31, 2007*

SUMMARY

S. 1429 would authorize the appropriation of \$15 million annually over the 2008-2012 period for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) program that provides technical assistance to small public water systems. The authorization for this program expired in 2003. CBO estimates that implementing S. 1429 would cost \$67 million over the next five years, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 1429 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandages Reform Act (UMRA) and would benefit state and local governments.

ESTIMATED COSTS TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1429 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Spending for EPA Technical Assistance						
Under Current Law ^a						
Budget Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	8	2	0	0	0	0
Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	0	15	15	15	15	15
Estimated Outlays	0	8	14	15	15	15
Total Spending for EPA Technical Assistance						
Under S. 1429 ^a						
Authorization Level	0	15	15	15	15	15
Estimated Outlays	8	10	14	15	15	15

a. There was no appropriation in 2007 for EPA technical assistance to small public water systems; outlays under current law stem from appropriations provided in prior years.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 1429 will be enacted near the start of 2008, that the authorized amounts will be appropriated each year, and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for the technical assistance program. This legislation would authorize funding for nonprofit organizations to help small public water systems achieve and maintain compliance with national regulations and to support training and engineering evaluations of those water systems. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$67 million over the 2008-2012 period.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 1429 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would authorize grants to small public water systems. Any costs to state and local governments, including matching funds, would be incurred voluntarily.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Susanne S. Mehlman

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Neil Hood

Impact on the Private Sector: Amy Petz

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Peter H. Fontaine

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis