



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 5, 1999

H.R. 1552 **Partial NOAA Programs Authorization Act of 1999**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on June 30, 1999

SUMMARY

H.R. 1552 would authorize the appropriation of \$187 million in each of fiscal years 2000 and 2001 for certain marine and environment programs of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The bill also would require an independent study of savings that could result from outsourcing aircraft services related to atmospheric and environmental research. In addition, H.R. 1552 would allow NOAA to spend, without further appropriations action, the amount that has been collected by the federal government as a result of damage claims against the vessel ZACHARY.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1552 would result in additional outlays of \$373 million over the 2000-2004 period, assuming the appropriation of the authorized amounts. Because enacting H.R. 1552 would affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but CBO estimates that such effects would not be significant. H.R. 1552 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated impact of H.R. 1552 on discretionary spending is shown in the following table. CBO also estimates that allowing NOAA to spend offsetting receipts from federal claims against the vessel ZACHARY would increase direct spending by about \$340,000 over the next five years. For the purpose of this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 1552 will be enacted by the end of fiscal year 1999 and that the amounts authorized will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending rates for these programs. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Spending Under Current Law						
Budget Authority ^a	155	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	159	62	19	9	0	0
Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	0	187	187	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	0	119	164	56	22	11
Spending Under H.R. 1552						
Authorization Level ^a	155	187	187	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	159	182	183	65	22	11

a. The 1999 level is the amount appropriated for that year for the marine and environmental programs conducted by NOAA that would be authorized by H.R. 1552.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS

The Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act sets up pay-as-you-go procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or receipts. H.R. 1552 would affect direct spending by allowing NOAA to spend the sum collected as a result of damage claims against the vessel ZACHARY, but the amount involved would not be significant.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

This bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Some of the funds authorized in this bill would be used to provide grants for research at public universities.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On May 7, 1999, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 1552, the Marine Research and Related Environmental Research and Development Programs Authorization Act of 1999, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Science on April 29, 1999. Differences between the estimates are attributable to differences in the two versions. The Science Committee's version included funding for programs of NOAA and the National Science Foundation that were not included in this version. The Science Committee's version would not affect direct spending or receipts, however.

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