



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 18, 1999

H.R. 1655 **Department of Energy Research, Development, and Demonstration** **Authorization Act of 1999**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Science on May 25, 1999, with
amendments provided by the Committee on June 11, 1999*

SUMMARY

H.R. 1655 would authorize appropriations for certain civilian research and development (R&D) programs at the Department of Energy (DOE) for fiscal years 2000 and 2001. It would specify authorizations for DOE's basic research programs and for the department's R&D on solar and renewable energy, nuclear power, fossil energy, and energy conservation. The bill would impose various conditions on the expenditure of the funds, including limitations on funding for the Spallation Neutron Source, the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor, and other projects and activities. Other provisions would affect procedures for awarding grants and contracts and for admitting foreign visitors to DOE laboratories and facilities.

CBO estimates that appropriation of the specified amounts would result in additional discretionary spending of \$8.0 billion over the 2000-2004 period. H.R. 1655 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 1655 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 budgetary impact of H.R. 1655 is shown in the following table. For the purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that the amounts authorized by the bill will be appropriated by the start of each fiscal year and that outlays will follow the historical spending patterns for these activities. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 250 (general science, space, and technology) and 270 (energy).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Spending Under Current Law						
Budget Authority	4,497 ^a	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	4,341	2,216	222	35	0	0
Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	0	3,883	4,106	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	0	1,993	3,816	1,963	190	26
Spending Under H.R. 1655						
Authorization Level	4,497 ^a	3,883	4,106	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	4,341	4,209	4,038	1,998	190	26

a. The 1999 level is the amount appropriated for that year for the four accounts of DOE that fund the programs authorized by this bill. These accounts include some programs that are not covered by the authorizations in this bill. Of the amounts appropriated for 1999, about \$4,046 million was provided for the programs authorized by H.R. 1655.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

H.R. 1655 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Currently, about \$600 million of the research and development budgets of the programs affected by this bill goes to universities, some of which are funded by states.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR

This bill contains no new private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On June 8, 1999, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for the version of H.R. 1655 provided by the Committee staff on May 26, 1999. That version did not include certain amendments

adopted by the Committee when the bill was ordered reported on May 25, 1999. Differences between the estimates are attributable to differences in the two versions. The corrected version of June 11, 1999, contains no authorizations for three existing programs (field operations, Oak Ridge landlord activities, and planning and management for R&D on building systems), which together represented about \$127 million of the amounts shown for each of the fiscal years 2000 and 2001 in the previous estimate. But it adds \$12.5 million over two years for R&D related to gas hydrates. The net change between the two versions' authorization levels is \$122 million for 2000 and \$120 million for 2001.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Kathleen Gramp

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Lisa Cash Driskill

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Robert A. Sunshine

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis