



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

May 12, 2003

**H.R. 1835
National Security Readiness Act of 2003**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on May 7, 2003

H.R. 1835 would exempt the Department of Defense (DoD) from complying with certain requirements of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972. The bill also would amend the ESA to change the standard for determining when critical habitat for threatened or endangered species should be designated and would prohibit such designations from being made on land owned or controlled by DoD.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1835 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Based on information provided by the Department of the Interior, we do not expect the revisions made to the two conservation acts would cause any change in the workload of the agencies responsible for implementing and enforcing them (primarily the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). The DoD expects that the changes would provide additional flexibility in carrying out military training and testing exercises. CBO expects that the department could experience some reduction in the costs of complying with the two acts, but realizing any such savings would depend on future appropriations actions. Enacting this bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 1835 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.