



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 27, 2007

H.R. 1867

National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2007

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Science and Technology
on April 24, 2007*

SUMMARY

H.R. 1867 would authorize the appropriation of about \$21 billion over the 2008-2010 period for ongoing operations of the National Science Foundation (NSF). NSF provides funding for basic research in science and engineering, as well as programs to improve science education and infrastructure. Assuming appropriation of the specified amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1867 would cost \$1.5 billion in 2008 and \$19.5 billion over the 2008-2012 period. Enacting H.R. 1867 would have no significant effect on direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 1867 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). The bill would benefit public institutions of higher education and any costs they may incur would result from complying with conditions for receiving federal assistance.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 1867 is shown in the following table. The cost of this legislation falls within budget functions 050 (national defense) and 250 (general science, space, and technology).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
NSF Spending Under Current Law						
Budget Authority	5,916	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	5,631	4,451	2,083	769	253	8
Proposed Changes						
Research and Related Activities						
Authorization Level	0	5,080	5,457	5,863	0	0
Estimated Outlays	0	1,118	3,385	4,754	4,128	1,930
Education and Human Resources						
Authorization Level	0	873	934	1,003	0	0
Estimated Outlays	0	105	461	721	766	435
Other NSF Activities ^a						
Authorization Level	0	547	589	626	0	0
Estimated Outlays	0	299	448	563	260	137
Total Changes						
Authorization Level	0	6,500	6,980	7,492	0	0
Estimated Outlays	0	1,522	4,294	6,038	5,154	2,502
NSF Spending Under H.R. 1867						
Authorization Level	5,916	6,500	6,980	7,492	0	0
Estimated Outlays	5,631	5,973	6,377	6,807	5,407	2,510

a. Includes funding for Agency Operations and Awards Management, Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction, the Office of the Inspector General, and the Office of the National Science Board.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

H.R. 1867 would authorize funding for NSF over the next three years. For this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted in fiscal year 2007 and that the amounts authorized by the bill will be appropriated each year. Based on historical spending patterns, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1867 would cost about \$19.5 billion over the 2008-2012 period, assuming appropriation of the specified amounts.

Research and Related Activities

H.R. 1867 would authorize the appropriation of \$16.4 billion over the 2008-2010 period for programs under NSF's Research and Related Activities account. In 2007, these programs received an appropriation of about \$4.7 billion to support most of NSF's basic science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) research. Included in the bill's authorization level is \$370 million over the three-year period for NSF's Major Research Instrumentation program, which provides grants to organizations to acquire and develop major research equipment that would not otherwise be available through other NSF programs. Based on historical spending patterns, CBO estimates that implementing these provisions would cost \$1.1 billion in 2008 and \$15.3 billion over the 2008-2012 period for ongoing research and related activities.

Education and Human Resources

The bill would authorize the appropriation of about \$2.8 billion over the 2008-2010 period for NSF's Education and Human Resources programs. In 2007, these programs received an appropriation of \$797 million to support and expand the STEM knowledge-base and workforce. Included in the bill's three-year authorization level is \$303 million for Mathematics and Science Education Partnerships, \$304 million for the Robert Noyce Scholarship Program, \$159 million for the STEM Talent Expansion Program, and \$166 million for the Advanced Technological Education program. Based on historical spending patterns, CBO estimates that implementing these provisions would cost \$105 million in 2008 and \$2.5 billion over the 2008-2012 period for ongoing operation of Education and Human Resources program.

Other NSF Activities

The bill would authorize the appropriation of nearly \$1.8 billion over the 2008-2010 period for other activities of NSF, including Agency Operations and Award Management (\$925 million), Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction (\$787 million), the Office of the Inspector General (\$38 million), and the Office of the National Science Board (\$12 million). In 2007, NSF received appropriations totaling \$453 million for these activities. Based on historical spending patterns, CBO estimates that implementing these provisions would cost \$1.7 billion over the 2008-2012 period, assuming appropriation of the specified amounts.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 1867 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. Public institutions of higher education would benefit from math and science grants programs authorized in the bill. Institutions that choose to participate in those programs may incur costs to comply with the conditions of the federal assistance, including cost-sharing requirements, but such costs would be incurred voluntarily.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Daniel Hoople

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Lisa Ramirez-Branum

Impact on the Private Sector: Craig Cammarata

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Peter H. Fontaine

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis