



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 19, 2014

H.R. 5266

A bill to reauthorize the National Estuary Programs, and for other purposes

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
on September 17, 2014*

SUMMARY

H.R. 5266 would authorize the appropriation of \$27 million annually over the 2015-2018 period for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) National Estuary Program. The legislation also would amend the Clean Water Act to require that grants awarded to state, local, and private entities by EPA are awarded in a competitive manner. CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would cost \$104 million over the 2015-2019 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts.

Enacting H.R. 5266 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

H.R. 5266 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). Any costs incurred by state, local, or tribal governments, including matching contributions, would result from participation in a voluntary federal program.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary effect of this legislation 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 | | | | | 2015- 2019 |
|---|--|------|------|------|------|---------------|
| | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | |
| CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION | | | | | | |
| Authorization Level | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 0 | 108 |
| Estimated Outlays | 12 | 23 | 27 | 27 | 15 | 104 |

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

CBO assumes that H.R. 5266 will be enacted near the start of 2015 and that the amounts authorized will be appropriated each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for the National Estuary Program. The authorization for this program expired in 2010, but \$25 million was appropriated for the program in 2014. Under the National Estuary Program, EPA develops plans for attaining or maintaining water quality in an estuary.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 5266 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. Any costs incurred by state, local, or tribal governments, including matching contributions, would result from participation in a voluntary federal program.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On April 10, 2014, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 2042, the Clean Estuaries Act of 2014, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on April 3, 2014. Both S. 2042 and H.R. 5266 would reauthorize the National Estuary Program, although S. 2042 would authorize the appropriation of \$35 million annually over the 2015-2019 period.

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