



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

July 2, 2013

**S. 659**

**A bill to reauthorize the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991, and for other purposes**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
on May 16, 2013*

**SUMMARY**

S. 659 would extend the authority of the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to assist states, tribes, and local governments with conservation, management, and construction activities to mitigate the effects of drought. For the 2005-2012 period, \$90 million was authorized to be appropriated for this program. The Congress appropriated about \$75 million before the authority expired in 2012. S. 659 would extend the authority to appropriate funds through 2018. CBO assumes that the remaining \$15 million would be appropriated in equal amounts over the next five years.

Based on information from the Bureau of Reclamation, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$14 million over the 2014-2018 period. Pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply to this legislation because it would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 659 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 S. 659 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					2014- 2018
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Estimated Authorization Level	3	3	3	3	3	15
Estimated Outlays	2	3	3	3	3	14

**PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

S. 659 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. By extending the legislative authority for the relief program, the bill would benefit certain states that undertake activities to mitigate damages caused by droughts. Any costs incurred by governmental entities would result from complying with conditions for receiving federal assistance.

**ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

Federal Costs: Aurora Swanson  
 Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Lisa Ramirez-Branum  
 Impact on the Private Sector: Amy Petz

**ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:**

Theresa Gullo  
 Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis