



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 27, 2000

### **H.R. 1775** **Estuary Restoration Act of 2000**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
on March 16, 2000*

#### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 1775 would establish the Estuary Habitat Restoration Council, consisting of representatives from multiple federal agencies, that would develop a strategy for restoring estuary habitats and provide financial assistance to nonfederal entities for restoration projects. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$315 million over the 2001-2005 period to the Corps of Engineers (Corps) for that purpose. In addition, the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$10 million over the five-year period to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to collection information to monitor the effectiveness of estuary restoration projects. Assuming appropriation of the specified amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the new program would increase federal spending by \$235 million over the 2001-2005 period. In addition, CBO estimates that directing the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a study on bioremediation technology would cost \$1 million, assuming appropriation of the necessary amount. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

H.R. 1775 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). Any expenditures made by state and local governments to satisfy the matching requirements of grants authorized by this bill would be voluntary.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

CBO estimates that implementing the bill would result in additional outlays of \$236 million over the 2001-2005 period, assuming appropriation of the amounts authorized for each year. No amounts were provided to the Corps or to NOAA in 2000 for funding or monitoring estuary restoration projects. The pattern of spending under this bill was estimated based on

historical spending patterns for similar activities. The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 1775 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					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	43	52	77	77	77
Estimated Outlays	0	8	22	52	72	82

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

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

This bill would impose no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. Any expenditures made by state and local governments to satisfy the matching requirements of grants authorized by this bill would be voluntary.

**PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE**

On October 13, 1999, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 835, the Estuary Habitat Restoration Partnership Act of 1999, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on September 29, 1999. In addition to authorizing a program for restoring estuary habitats that is similar to the program authorized under this legislation, S. 835 would reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay program for five years. Differences in the two estimates reflect the cost of implementing that additional provision of S. 835.

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