



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 4, 2002

H.R. 3389 **National Sea Grant College Program Act Amendments of 2002**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Science on March 20, 2002

SUMMARY

H.R. 3389 would authorize funding for the national sea grant college program through fiscal year 2008. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$294 million over the 2003-2007 period to carry out these activities. (An additional \$188 million would be spent after 2007.) The legislation would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

H.R. 3389 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 H.R. 3389 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$451 million over the 2003-2007 period, plus \$100 million for fiscal year 2008, to carry out the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) contract, grant, fellowship, and administrative functions under the sea grant program. For this estimate, CBO assumes that all amounts authorized by H.R. 3389 will be appropriated by the start of each fiscal year and that outlays would follow historical spending patterns for the sea grants program.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Spending Under Current Law						
Authorization Level ^a	62	69	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	55	62	47	14	0	0
Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	0	6	90	93	95	98
Estimated Outlays	0	2	30	74	93	95
Spending Under H.R. 3389						
Authorization Level	62	75	90	93	95	98
Estimated Outlays	55	64	77	88	93	95

a. The 2002 level is the amount appropriated for that year for sea grants. The 2003 level is the amount authorized for appropriation for that program.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

H.R. 3389 contains no mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The bill would benefit public universities by reauthorizing the sea grant program which provides grants to develop programs to improve marine resource conservation, management, and utilization. Any costs incurred by public universities to participate in this program would be voluntary. In addition, the bill could benefit state governments who have implemented state sea grant programs by authorizing the Secretary of Commerce to distribute any excess amounts appropriated above the fiscal year 2002 level to state sea grant programs (on a competitive, merit-based review). Any costs incurred by states would be voluntary.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE-SECTOR

H.R. 3389 would impose no new private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On March 5, 2002, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 3389 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on February 27, 2002. The cost of the Science Committee version of the bill is lower than the Resources Committee version because it does not contain authorization levels for NOAA's ocean coastal research program as the Resources Committee version did. The Science Committee version also includes authorization levels for fiscal year 2003, while the Resources Committee version did not.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Cost: Deborah Reis

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Elyse Goldman

Impact on the Private Sector: Cecil McPherson

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Peter H. Fontaine

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis