



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 12, 2002

### **H.R. 4883** **Hydrographic Services Improvement Act Amendments of 2002**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on June 26, 2002*

#### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 4883 would authorize the appropriation of \$886 million over the 2003-2007 period for hydrographic activities carried out by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Such services include nautical mapping and charting, collecting hydrographic data, maintaining a geodetic reference system, and measuring tides and currents. Of the amounts authorized, \$50 million would be earmarked for activities related to homeland security.

Title II of the bill would consolidate existing laws that govern the NOAA commissioned officers corps. Such laws involve authorized personnel levels, appointments and promotions, separation and retirement, and rights and benefits. CBO estimates that enacting title II would have no budgetary impact.

Enacting H.R. 4883 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

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

Assuming appropriation of the amounts authorized by H.R. 4883, CBO estimates that NOAA would spend \$811 million over the 2003-2007 period to perform ongoing hydrographic services. (An additional \$75 million of the authorized total would be spent after 2007.) The estimated cost of the bill is summarized in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

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	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007

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**SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION**

Spending on Hydrographic Services						
Under Current Law						
Budget Authority <sup>a</sup>	120	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	120	36	10	0	0	0
Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	0	193	155	168	180	191
Estimated Outlays	0	110	150	170	185	196
Spending on Hydrographic Services						
Under H.R. 4883						
Authorization Level <sup>a</sup>	120	193	155	168	180	191
Estimated Outlays	120	146	160	170	185	196

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a. The 2002 level is the amount appropriated for that year.

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**BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For each year, the proposed authorization level is equal to the amounts specified by the bill, including \$50 million for fiscal year 2003 to enhance this program's contributions to homeland security. The estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for hydrographic services and related activities.

CBO estimates that enacting title II would have no impact on the federal budget. Most of the provisions of this title involve reorganizing existing statutes. The few changes made to existing law would not affect the cost of maintaining a commissioned officers corps.

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

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 4883 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

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