



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 5, 2006

S. 260

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on June 21, 2006

SUMMARY

S. 260 would authorize appropriations for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program. Through that program, the Department of the Interior provides financial and technical assistance to private landowners for conservation projects on their land. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 260 would cost \$45 million in 2007 and \$350 million over the 2007-2011 period. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues. S. 260 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

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 260 will be enacted near the start of fiscal year 2007 and that authorized amounts would be provided as specified in the legislation. The estimated budgetary impact of S. 260 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

S. 260 would authorize the appropriation of up to \$75 million a year over the 2006-2011 period for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program. (\$41 million has already been provided for that program in 2006; CBO assumes no additional appropriations will be enacted this year.) Based on historical spending patterns for the program, CBO estimates that fully funding it under S. 260 would cost \$45 million in 2007 and \$350 million over the 2007-2011 period, with a total of \$25 million in additional spending occurring in later years.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 260 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Spending Under Current Law for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program						
Budget Authority ^a	41	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	39	8	3	1	0	0
Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	0	75	75	75	75	75
Estimated Outlays	0	45	77	76	76	76
Spending Under S. 260 for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program						
Authorization Level ^a	41	75	75	75	75	75
Estimated Outlays	39	53	80	77	76	76

a. The 2006 level is the amount appropriated for that year for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On June 15, 2005, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 260 as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on June 8, 2005. The two versions of S. 260 are identical. Differences in our estimates of spending reflect a change in when we assume the legislation will be enacted.

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