



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

March 28, 2008

**H.R. 3352
Hydrographic Services Improvement Act Amendments of 2008**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources
on March 12, 2008*

SUMMARY

H.R. 3352 would amend the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998. The bill also would authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2009 through 2012 for hydrographic activities carried out by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$671 million over the 2009-2013 period and \$113 million after 2013. Enacting H.R. 3352 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

This legislation 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

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 3352 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					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
NOAA Spending For Hydrographic Services						
Under Current Law						
Budget Authority ^a	164	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	155	36	16	5	0	0
Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	0	248	175	179	182	0
Estimated Outlays	0	121	143	172	180	55
Spending Under H.R. 3352						
Authorization Level ^a	164	248	175	179	182	0
Estimated Outlays	155	157	159	177	180	55

a. The 2008 level is the amount appropriated for hydrographic services for that year.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 3352 will be enacted near the beginning of fiscal year 2009, that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each year, and that spending will follow historical patterns for this program.

The authorizations in the table include between \$173 million and \$182 million annually for hydrographic services performed by NOAA over the 2009-2012 period. Such services include nautical mapping and charting, collecting hydrographic data, maintaining a geodetic reference system, and measuring tides and currents. In addition, the 2009 funding level includes \$75 million authorized by the bill for a hydrographic survey vessel.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 3352 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On August 16, 2007, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 1582, the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act Amendments of 2007, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on July 19, 2007. S. 1582 and H.R. 3352 would authorize similar funding for hydrographic services, but S. 1582 would authorize appropriations for five years rather than the four years contained in H.R. 3352 and would not authorize funding for a survey vessel. The CBO cost estimates reflect those differences as well as recent changes in technical assumptions about spending rates.

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