



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

July 24, 2008

H.R. 3957
Water Use Efficiency and Conservation Research Act

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Science and Technology
on July 16, 2008*

SUMMARY

H.R. 3957 would authorize appropriations totaling \$101 million over the 2009-2013 period for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to support activities to promote conservation and the efficient use of water. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3957 would cost \$86 million over the 2009-2013 period and \$15 million after 2013. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 3957 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. 3957 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					2009-2013
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2013
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Authorization Level	21	20	20	20	20	101
Estimated Outlays	9	17	20	20	20	86

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

H.R. 3957 would authorize EPA to establish a research and development program to improve the storage, treatment, and distribution of water in the United States. The bill directs EPA to conduct a study in cooperation with the National Academy of Sciences that would examine strategies to enhance water supply management. It also would require EPA to establish a publicly accessible clearinghouse to disseminate information regarding new technologies and processes that improve water-use efficiency. Finally, the bill would allow EPA to award grants to universities for research related to the conservation and efficient use of water.

H.R. 3957 would authorize the appropriation of \$21 million in 2009 and \$20 million in each of fiscal years 2010 through 2013. Assuming the appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3957 would cost \$86 million over the 2009-2013 period and \$15 million after 2013. That estimate is based on historical spending patterns for similar programs.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 3957 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would create a grant program for research on water-use efficiency benefitting institutions of higher education. Any costs state, local, or tribal governments might incur, including matching funds, would result from complying with conditions of aid.

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