



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 22, 2015

### **H.R. 944**

#### **A bill to reauthorize the National Estuary Programs, and for other purposes**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
on April 14, 2015*

#### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 944 would authorize the appropriation of \$27 million annually over the 2016-2020 period for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) National Estuary Program. The legislation also would amend the Clean Water Act to require that grants awarded to state, local, and private entities by EPA are awarded in a competitive manner. CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would cost \$116 million over the 2016-2020 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts.

Enacting H.R. 944 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

H.R. 944 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act (UMRA), and any costs incurred by state, local, or tribal governments, including matching contributions, would result from participation in a voluntary federal program.

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

The estimated budgetary effect of this legislation 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					2016- 2020
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Authorization Level	27	27	27	27	27	135
Estimated Outlays	12	23	27	27	27	116

**BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

CBO assumes that H.R. 944 will be enacted near the start of 2016 and that the amounts authorized will be appropriated each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for the National Estuary Program. The authorization for this program expired in 2010, but \$26 million was appropriated for the program in 2015. Under the National Estuary Program, EPA develops plans for attaining or maintaining water quality in an estuary.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 944 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA, and any costs incurred by state, local, or tribal governments, including matching contributions, would result from participation in a voluntary federal program.

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