



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

September 5, 2014

**H.R. 4701**  
**Tick-Borne Disease Research Accountability and Transparency**  
**Act of 2014**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
on July 30, 2014*

**SUMMARY**

H.R. 4701 would amend the Public Health Service Act to require the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to conduct or support research of Lyme and other tick-borne diseases. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) currently administers research programs related to such diseases. The authority for discretionary research programs at the NIH expired at the end of fiscal year 2009. For each year from 2010 through 2014, however, the Congress appropriated funds for the NIH to continue operating its discretionary programs across all areas of research.

The bill also would require that the Secretary of HHS (in its biennial reports to the Congress) describe actions taken by NIH to support research of Lyme and other tick-borne diseases and report on the progress toward improving the outcomes of such diseases. In addition, the bill would require the Secretary to establish a permanent interagency working group on Lyme and tick-borne diseases and to periodically submit to the Congress a strategic plan for the conduct and support of tick-borne disease research.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4701 would cost \$338 million over the 2015-2019 period, assuming appropriation of amounts similar to appropriations provided in recent years for NIH activities related to Lyme and other tick-borne diseases. Pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply to this legislation because it would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 4701 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

## ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary effect of H.R. 4701 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 550 (health).

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	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2015- 2019
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Estimated Authorization Level <sup>a</sup>	83	85	86	88	90	432
Estimated Outlays	24	65	78	84	88	338

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Note: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.

a. The amounts shown in the table are roughly equivalent to estimated funding provided in recent years for NIH activities related to Lyme and other tick-borne diseases, with adjustments for anticipated inflation.

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## BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 4701 will be enacted early in fiscal year 2015, that the necessary amounts will be appropriated each year, and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for the affected programs.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4701 would cost \$338 million over the 2015-2019 period, assuming the appropriation of the necessary amounts. The NIH currently administers research programs related to Lyme and other tick-borne diseases. Authority for discretionary research programs at NIH expired at the end of fiscal year 2009. However, since 2009 the Congress has appropriated funds for NIH to continue operating its research programs. The Congress appropriated about \$30 billion to NIH for fiscal year 2014. CBO estimates that, of that total, NIH allocated \$82 million for activities related to Lyme and other tick-borne diseases. The agency plans to allocate a similar amount to such activities in 2015.

H.R. 4701 would direct NIH to conduct or support research activities related to Lyme and other tick-borne diseases. Because authority for discretionary research programs funded by NIH has expired under section 402A of the Public Service Act, estimated changes in discretionary costs associated with implementing H.R. 4701 reflect the total costs of all NIH-funded research activities related to Lyme and tick-borne diseases for fiscal years 2015 through 2019, assuming the availability of appropriated funds. CBO estimates that

the annual costs for such research activities in each of years 2015 through 2019 would be similar to appropriated funds allocated for research on Lyme and tick-borne diseases at NIH in recent years. CBO expects that the bill would primarily affect research activities supported by NIH. However, the legislation could also affect programs administered by other HHS agencies, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

H.R. 4701 also would establish a permanent interagency working group on Lyme and tick-borne diseases by expanding an existing working group within HHS to consist of 14 individuals (including nonfederal members of the public). The working group would be required to meet at least twice a year and to submit a report to the Congress on its activities every 24 months. The bill would also require that the Secretary submit to the Congress a strategic plan for the conduct and support of research relating to Lyme and other tick-borne diseases every five years (starting the third year after the date of enactment of the bill). CBO estimates that those activities would cost about \$1 million a year, subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

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

#### **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 4701 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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