



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

May 23, 2014

**S. 1254**  
**Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research**  
**and Control Amendments Act of 2014**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
on May 21, 2014*

**SUMMARY**

S. 1254 would reauthorize and modify the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998. The act would authorize the appropriation of \$20.5 million annually through 2018 period for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to mitigate the harmful effects of algal blooms and hypoxia (reduced oxygen level) in certain bodies of water.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$78 million over the 2015-2019 period and \$4 million after 2019. Enacting S. 1254 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

S. 1254 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 impact of S. 1254 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					2015- 2019
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Authorization Level	21	21	21	21	0	82
Estimated Outlays	13	17	20	21	7	78

Note: Amounts may not sum to totals because of rounding.

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2014 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar NOAA activities.

S. 1254 would authorize the appropriation of about \$21 million a year through 2018 for certain NOAA activities related to mitigating the harmful effects of algal blooms and hypoxia in coastal waters and the Great Lakes. Those activities include providing grants, conducting research, preparing reports, and overseeing an interagency task force. In 2013, NOAA spent \$11 million on similar activities. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$78 million over the 2015-2019 period and \$4 million after 2019.

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

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

S. 1254 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. State and local governments could benefit from programs and cooperative agreements authorized in the bill. Any costs they incur would result from participation in voluntary federal programs.

## **PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE**

On August 22, 2013, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 1254, the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2013, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on July 30, 2013. The two versions of the legislation are similar; however, because the Senate version was reported last year, CBO assumed that \$20.5 million also would be appropriated in 2014. The CBO cost estimates reflect that difference.

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