



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

March 27, 2014

H.R. 2413
Weather Forecasting Improvement Act of 2014

*As revised and posted on the website of the House Committee on Science,
Space, and Technology on March 24, 2014*

SUMMARY

H.R. 2413 would authorize appropriations totaling \$360 million over the 2015-2017 period for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to improve forecasting of severe weather events. The bill also would authorize NOAA to carry out various other activities related to weather forecasting and research.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$356 million over the 2015-2019 period. Enacting H.R. 2413 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

H.R. 2413 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. 2413 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	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Authorization Level	120	120	120	0	0	360
Estimated Outlays	78	102	118	41	17	356

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted near the end of 2014 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar NOAA programs. Although funds have probably been appropriated in fiscal year 2014 to conduct activities authorized under the bill, CBO cannot identify those amounts because NOAA has not yet allocated its 2014 appropriations for those activities.

H.R. 2413 would authorize the appropriation of \$120 million a year over the 2015-2017 period for NOAA to improve forecasting of severe weather events. Under the bill, NOAA would use those funds to purchase equipment, conduct research, establish advisory committees, and fund fellowship programs related to improving the agency's forecasting capabilities and warning systems. In 2013, the agency spent about \$80 million to fund activities similar to activities authorized under H.R. 2413. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$356 million over the 2015-2019 period.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 2413 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATES

On January 13, 2014, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 2413, the Weather Forecasting Improvement Act of 2013, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology on December 5, 2013. The two versions of the bill authorize NOAA to carry out similar activities, but the previous version of H.R. 2413 authorized specified amounts to carry out only some of the activities authorized under the bill. The more recent version authorizes specified amounts for all activities under the bill. In addition, this cost estimate does not include amounts authorized to be appropriated to NOAA for 2014. Those differences are reflected in the cost estimates for the two versions of the legislation.

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