



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

July 24, 2014

**S. 2019  
SECURE Water Amendments Act of 2014**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
on June 18, 2014*

**SUMMARY**

S. 2019 would authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to provide grants to eligible nonfederal partners to carry out projects to mitigate drought conditions, conserve water, and restore watersheds in 17 western states, certain U.S. Territories, and Hawaii. The bill also would authorize grants to state water agencies to develop and maintain data on water availability. S. 2019 would authorize the appropriation of \$113 million for those activities.

Based on information from the Bureau of Reclamation, and assuming appropriation of specified amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 2019 would cost \$111 million over the 2015-2019 period. Enacting S. 2019 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

S. 2019 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 S. 2019 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>						
WaterSMART Grants						
Estimated Authorization Level	25	35	30	10	0	100
Estimated Outlays	15	27	31	19	7	99
State Water Agency Grants						
Estimated Authorization Level	3	3	3	3	0	13
Estimated Outlays	2	3	3	3	1	12
Total Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	28	38	33	13	0	113
Estimated Outlays	17	30	34	22	8	111

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

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 2019 will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2014 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated over the next four years. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for those activities.

Under current law, the bureau provides grants to nonfederal partners in 17 western states and certain U.S. Territories—subject to a 50 percent cost share—to design and construct projects to conserve water, generate renewable energy, and restore watersheds. In fiscal year 2014, appropriations for that program—known as WaterSMART—reached the current authorization ceiling of \$200 million. S. 2019 would authorize the appropriation of an additional \$100 million for the program. The bill also would make nonfederal partners in Hawaii eligible to participate in WaterSMART and clarify that drought planning is an authorized activity under the program.

S. 2019 would reauthorize a water assessment program that provides grants to state agencies to develop and integrate data about water availability for local planners. In addition to reauthorizing the program—which expired in 2013—the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$12.5 million for the program.

Based on information from the bureau, CBO estimates that implementing those provisions would cost \$111 million over the 2015-2019 period, assuming appropriation of specified amounts.

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

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

S. 2019 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. State, local, and tribal entities would benefit from federal grants and cooperative agreements authorized in the bill that would support water management and assessment programs. Any costs to those entities, including matching funds, would be incurred voluntarily as a condition of receiving federal assistance.

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