



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 20, 2017

S. 703

Wichita Project Equus Beds Division Authorization Extension Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on March 30, 2017*

SUMMARY

S. 703 would authorize the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to assist the city of Wichita, Kansas, with implementing a local plan to recharge the groundwater of the Equus Beds Aquifer. The project consists of four phases and the city has completed phases I and II. The bill would authorize the BOR to assist the city with the final phases of the project over the next 10 years.

Based on information from the BOR, and assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$30 million over the 2018-2022 period.

Enacting S. 703 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. CBO also estimates that enacting the bill would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

S. 703 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 effect of S. 703 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						2017- 2022
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION							
Estimated Authorization Level	0	21	3	3	3	3	32
Estimated Outlays	0	21	2	2	3	3	30

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

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted in 2017 and that the necessary amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year.

S. 703 would authorize the BOR to assist Wichita with implementing a local plan to recharge the groundwater of the Equus Beds Aquifer. Previously, over the 2006-2016 period, the BOR was authorized to spend up to \$44 million of appropriated funds for the Equus Beds project and \$4 million of that total was appropriated and spent. (That authorization expired in October 2016.) S. 703 would authorize the appropriation of about \$40 million over the next 10 years to complete the project.

The Equus Beds Project consists of four phases and Wichita has completed phases I and II of the project, at a cost of \$102 million. The federal share of those costs would total about \$25 million. Under the bill, CBO estimates that \$21 million would be paid to Wichita in the first year after enactment for the federal share of those costs incurred (\$25 million less the \$4 million already paid to the city), assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. CBO expects that the remaining amount would be provided in roughly equal installments over the next several years to construct phases III and IV of the project.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INCREASE IN LONG-TERM DIRECT SPENDING AND DEFICITS

CBO estimates that enacting S. 703 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 703 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Any costs incurred by the City of Wichita for operating and maintaining the project, including cost-sharing contributions, would be incurred voluntarily.

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