



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

April 6, 2017

**S. 723
A bill to extend the deadline for commencement
of construction of a hydroelectric project**

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

CBO estimates that implementing S. 723 would have no net effect on the federal budget. The bill would authorize the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to reinstate the license and extend the deadline for beginning construction of a hydroelectric project (number 12642) involving the W. Kerr Scott Hydropower Project in North Carolina. The proposed extension could have a minor effect on FERC's workload; however, because FERC recovers 100 percent of its costs through user fees, any change in that agency's costs (which are controlled through annual appropriation acts) would be offset by an equal change in fees that the commission charges, resulting in no net change in federal spending.

Enacting S. 723 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. CBO estimates that enacting S. 723 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

S. 723 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Megan Carroll. The estimate was approved by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.