



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 23, 1998

### **S. 1970** **Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
on July 22, 1998*

#### **SUMMARY**

S. 1970 would direct the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to create a new grant program for projects to conserve neotropical migratory birds in the United States and Caribbean and Latin American countries. The program would provide financial assistance to eligible federal, state, or local government agencies; governments of Caribbean or Latin American countries; and private organizations, corporations, or persons. The bill also would establish a 12-member advisory committee to assist the USFWS in developing proposal guidelines, promoting participation in the program, and reviewing proposals. Members of the advisory committee would not receive compensation for such service.

For the purposes of developing and administering the program (including travel expenses of the advisory committee) and making grants, S. 1970 would authorize the appropriation of \$8 million annually for fiscal years 1999 through 2001. S. 1970 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The bill 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**

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1970 would cost the federal government \$24 million through 2003. For purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 1970 will be enacted by the beginning of fiscal year 1999 and that the entire amounts authorized will be appropriated for each year. Outlay estimates are based on spending patterns for similar programs. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment). The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1970 is shown in the following table.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<b>SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>					
Authorization Level	8	8	8	0	0
Estimated Outlays	3	6	8	5	2

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

**ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS**

S. 1970 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. State and local governments would be among the entities eligible to receive the financial assistance authorized by this bill. In order to receive assistance for a project, these governments would be required to submit a proposal meeting certain criteria and to pay at least 67 percent of the project costs. Any such costs incurred by state or local governments would be voluntary.

**ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

This bill would impose no new private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

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