



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 16, 1999

H.R. 1934

Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Act of 1999

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on June 30, 1999

SUMMARY

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1934 would cost \$15 million over the 2001-2004 period. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 1934 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). Any costs incurred by state, local, or tribal governments would result from the voluntary participation in the grant program established by the bill.

H.R. 1934 would direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program. Under this program, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) would provide grants to groups or individuals who assist stranded marine mammals. The grants could be used to recover or treat these animals, collect data from living or dead specimens for research and cover operating costs for related facilities. The bill also would direct the Secretary to establish a group to advise the agency on implementing the new program, including making grants. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$5 million for each of fiscal years 2001 through 2003.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 1934 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment). For purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that the entire amounts authorized will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on the experience of similar programs carried out by NMFS and other parts of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
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SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION

Authorization Level	0	5	5	5	0
Estimated Outlays	0	3	4	5	3

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 1934 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. Any costs incurred by state, local, or tribal governments would result from the voluntary participation in the grant program established by the bill.

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