



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 13, 2000

H.R. 4281 **ICCVAM Authorization Act of 2000**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Commerce on October 5, 2000

SUMMARY

H.R. 4281 would designate the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) as a permanent standing committee administered by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). The legislation would establish objectives for ICCVAM, including increasing the efficiency of reviewing methods of animal testing across federal agencies, and reducing reliance on animal testing. In addition, the bill would direct the NIEHS to establish a Scientific Advisory Committee to assist the ICCVAM in making recommendations.

The bill also would require federal agencies to identify and forward to ICCVAM their guidelines or regulations requiring or recommending animal testing. The ICCVAM would examine alternatives to traditional animal testing and promote the use of those alternatives whenever possible. Agencies would be required to adopt ICCVAM recommendations unless such recommendations are inadequate or unsatisfactory.

Assuming the appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4281 would cost \$1 million in 2001 and \$9 million over the 2001-2005 period, assuming annual adjustments for inflation for those activities without specified authorization levels. The five-year total would be \$8 million if such inflation adjustments are not made. The legislation would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

H.R. 4281 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 4281 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 550 (health).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Spending Under Current Law						
Estimated Authorization Level ^a	445	455	464	473	483	493
Estimated Outlays	384	426	443	456	466	475
Proposed Changes ^b						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	2	2	2	2	2
Estimated Outlays	0	1	2	2	2	2
Spending Under H.R. 4281						
Estimated Authorization Level	445	457	466	475	485	495
Estimated Outlays	384	427	445	458	468	477

a. The 2000 level is the amount appropriated for that year for the agencies that would be affected by H.R. 4281. The 2001-2005 levels are CBO baseline projections, including adjustments for anticipated inflation.

b. The amounts shown reflect adjustments for anticipated inflation. Without such inflation adjustments, the five-year changes in authorization levels would total \$10 million (instead of \$11 million) and the changes in outlays would total \$8 million (instead of \$9 million).

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted early in fiscal year 2001 and that the estimated amounts will be appropriated for each year. We also assume that outlays will follow historical spending rates for the NIEHS for the authorized activities. CBO based its estimates on amounts spent in the past for similar types of activities.

In addition to making the ICCVAM a standing committee, the bill would require federal agencies to identify and forward to ICCVAM their guidelines or regulations requiring or recommending animal testing. Agencies would be required to adopt ICCVAM recommendations unless such recommendations are inadequate or unsatisfactory. The agencies that would most likely be affected by this provision include the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug

Administration, various institutes within the National Institutes of Health, and any other agency that develops or employs tests or test data using animals or regulates the use of animals in toxicity testing. Based on information from the NIH, it appears that most agencies currently comply with the findings of the ICCVAM on evaluations of research methods. Thus, CBO estimates that the provision would not have a significant impact on federal spending.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 4281 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

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