



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 19, 1999

S. 148

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
on March 17, 1999*

SUMMARY

S. 148 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 government agencies, international or foreign organizations, and private entities. In order to provide financing for the new program, the bill would establish a neotropical migratory bird conservation account in the U.S. Treasury, into which the Secretary of the Treasury would deposit amounts donated to the government for this program as well as amounts appropriated by the Congress.

For the purposes of developing and administering the program and making grants, S. 148 would authorize the appropriation of \$8 million annually for fiscal years 2000 through 2003. Because the bill would authorize the USFWS to accept and spend donations without further appropriation, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. CBO estimates, however, that any new revenues and resulting direct spending would be insignificant and largely offsetting. 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. 148 would cost the federal government \$30 million through 2004. For purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 148 will be enacted by the beginning of fiscal year 2000 and that the entire amount 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. 148 is shown in the following table.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Authorization Level	8	8	8	8	0
Estimated Outlays	3	6	8	8	5

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS

The Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act sets up pay-as-you-go procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or receipts. S. 148 would affect both offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending) and governmental receipts. CBO estimates, however, that any such effects would be insignificant and offsetting over the next five years.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

S. 148 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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