



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

May 11, 2000

S. 1639

Earth, Wind, and Fire Authorization Act of 2000

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
on April 13, 2000*

SUMMARY

S. 1639 would authorize appropriations for several research programs primarily related to natural hazards, weather, and the atmosphere. CBO estimates that implementing S. 1639 would cost about \$5.5 billion over the next five years, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. S. 1639 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.

Title I of S. 1639 would authorize appropriations totaling \$318 million over the 2001-2003 period for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the National Institute of Standards and Technology to carry out provisions of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977. Title I also would authorize the appropriation of \$187 million over the 2001-2005 period for the USGS to implement a new system of seismic research and monitoring, and \$74 million over the 2001-2004 period for the NSF to establish a network for engineering simulations of earthquakes.

Title II would authorize appropriations for three branches of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—the National Weather Service, the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, and the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service. For these programs, the bill would authorize the appropriation of about \$1.5 billion for fiscal year 2001, \$1.6 billion for 2002, and \$1.7 billion for 2003.

Title III would authorize appropriations totaling \$163 million over the 2001-2003 period for the programs, salaries, and expenses of the U.S. Fire Administration.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

For the purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 1639 will be enacted by the end of fiscal year 2000 and that the authorized amounts will be provided each year. Estimates of outlays are based on historical spending patterns for these and similar programs. The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1639 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 250 (general science, space, and technology), 300 (natural resources and environment), 370 (commerce and housing credit), and 450 (community and regional development).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Spending Under Current Law for Research Programs Authorized by S. 1639						
Budget Authority ^a	1,559	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	1,553	624	408	88	4	0
Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	0	1,727	1,835	1,903	52	34
Estimated Outlays	0	1,040	1,588	1,837	775	253
Spending Under S. 1639						
Authorization Level ^a	1,559	1,727	1,835	1,903	52	34
Estimated Outlays	1,553	1,664	1,996	1,925	779	253

a. The 2000 level is the amount appropriated for these research programs for that year.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 1639 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Some of the appropriations authorized by this bill would fund grants and other services to state and local governments.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

During 1999, CBO transmitted cost estimates for three bills that would authorize appropriations for the same programs authorized under each of the titles in S. 1639:

- On April 21, 1999, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 1184, the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Authorization Act of 1999, as reported by the House Committee on Science on April 19, 1999;
- On May 7, 1999, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 1553, the National Weather Service and Related Agencies Authorization Act of 1999, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Science on April 29, 1999;
- On May 6, 1999, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 1550, the Fire Administration Authorization Act of 1999, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Science on April 29, 1999.

Differences in the amounts authorized and the fiscal years covered by these previous bills and by S. 1639 account for the differences in our cost estimates.

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