



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

March 5, 2002

H.R. 3389

National Sea Grant College Program Act Amendments of 2001

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on February 27, 2002

SUMMARY

H.R. 3389 would authorize, through fiscal year 2008, funding for the national sea grant college program and for coastal ocean research. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that the federal government would spend an additional \$370 million over the 2003-2007 period to carry out these activities under the legislation. (An additional \$239 million would be spent after 2007.) The legislation would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

H.R. 3389 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. The bill would benefit public universities by reauthorizing the sea grant program, which provides grants to develop programs to improve the conservation, management, and utilization of marine resources. Any costs incurred by public universities to participate in this program would be voluntary.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 3389 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Spending Under Current Law						
Authorization Level ^a	84	69	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	81	77	51	23	0	0
Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	0	3	112	117	121	126
Estimated Outlays	0	3	35	91	117	121
Spending Under H.R. 3389						
Authorization Level	84	72	112	117	121	126
Estimated Outlays	81	80	86	114	117	121

a. The 2002 level is the amount appropriated for that year. The 2003 level is the amount authorized for appropriation for sea grants; there is no specific authorization level for coastal ocean research in any year.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

The bill would authorize appropriations of \$479 million over the 2003-2007 period, plus \$130 million for fiscal year 2008, to carry out the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's contract, grant, fellowship, and administrative functions under the sea grant and coastal research programs. The authorization levels in the table are as stated in the bill, and include, in fiscal year 2003, the \$2.7 million authorized by section 7 for administrative and financial assistance to colleges in the Pacific Islands to enable them to become qualified for a sea grant.

For the purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that all amounts authorized in H.R. 3389 would be appropriated by the start of each fiscal year and that outlays would follow historical spending patterns for both programs.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

H.R. 3389 contains no mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The bill would benefit public universities by reauthorizing the sea grant program, which provides grants to develop programs to improve marine resource

conservation, management, and utilization. Any costs incurred by public universities to participate in this program would be voluntary.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE-SECTOR

H.R. 3389 would impose no new private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Cost: Deborah Reis

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Elyse Goldman

Impact on the Private Sector: Lauren Marks

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Robert A. Sunshine

Assistant Director for Budget Analysis