



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 28, 2004

H.R. 4688

A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Program

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
on July 21, 2004*

SUMMARY

H.R. 4688 would extend the authorization of appropriations for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Chesapeake Bay Program through 2010. Under current law, \$40 million is authorized to be appropriated each year through 2005, and enacting H.R. 4688 would maintain the same authorized annual funding level for subsequent years. Such funding would be used to restore the ecological health of the bay. CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would cost \$129 million over the next five years, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. (The additional amounts authorized would be spent after 2009.)

The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts. H.R. 4688 contains no inter-governmental 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

For purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted this year and that the amounts authorized will be appropriated for each fiscal year, beginning with 2006. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar activities. The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 4688 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and the environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	

SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION

Spending Under Current Law on Chesapeake Bay Program						
Authorization Level ^a	23	40	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	23	30	21	6	1	0
Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	0	0	40	40	40	40
Estimated Outlays	0	0	16	34	39	40
Spending Under H.R. 4688 on Chesapeake Bay Program						
Authorization Level ^a	23	40	40	40	40	40
Estimated Outlays	23	30	37	40	40	40

a. The 2004 level is the amount appropriated for that year to EPA to implement the Chesapeake Bay Program. The 2005 amount is the level authorized to be appropriated under current law for the program.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 4688 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, local governments in those states, and the District of Columbia would benefit from the bill's extension of grants, technical assistance, monitoring, and restoration activities for the bay and affected areas. Any expenditures made by those governments to satisfy the matching requirements of the program's grants would be incurred voluntarily.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Susanne S. Mehlman
 Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Gregory Waring
 Impact on the Private Sector: Amina Masood

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Peter H. Fontaine
 Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis