



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

November 9, 2005

H.R. 3963

A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to extend the authorization of appropriations for Long Island Sound

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
on October 26, 2005*

SUMMARY

H.R. 3963 would extend the authorization of appropriations for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Long Island Sound program office through 2010. This office is responsible for monitoring the environmental health of Long Island Sound and for providing grants to state, interstate, and regional water-pollution-control agencies and other public and nonprofit agencies to support efforts to improve the environmental quality of Long Island Sound. Under current law, the office was authorized to receive annual appropriations of up to \$40 million for grants and additional amounts necessary to support other activities related to EPA's oversight of the Long Island Sound program through 2005.

CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would cost \$2 million in 2006 and \$106 million over the 2006-2010 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary funds. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 3963 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). Any costs to state or local governments would be the result of complying with grant conditions.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 3963 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				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Spending Under Current Law					
Budget Authority ^a	2	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	6	5	3	2	1
Proposed Changes					
Estimated Authorization Level	40	42	42	42	42
Estimated Outlays	2	12	24	32	36
Spending Under H.R. 3963					
Estimated Authorization Level ^a	42	42	42	42	42
Estimated Outlays	8	17	27	34	37

a. The 2006 level is the amount appropriated for that year for EPA to manage the Long Island Sound program. No appropriation was provided for grants.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

The bill would authorize the appropriation of up to \$40 million annually for grants to states to implement public notification programs on beach water quality through 2010. For this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted before the end of calendar year 2005 and that the necessary amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Based on historical spending patterns for this program, CBO estimates that providing the program grants would cost \$98 million over the 2006-2010 period, with additional spending occurring in later years.

H.R. 3963 also would authorize the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary for activities related to EPA's management of the Long Island Sound program, including conducting studies and supporting conferences through 2010. Assuming appropriations for those activities would continue at the 2006 level and would be adjusted for anticipated inflation for this program, CBO estimates that implementing the program would cost \$8 million over the 2007-2010 period.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 3963 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined by UMRA. The bill would reauthorize the Long Island Sound program office. Much of the funding authorized by the bill would provide for a grant program that requires matching funds from participating public

or private entities such as qualified state and local governments. Any costs to those governments from the requirements of the program would be incurred voluntarily.

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