



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

October 15, 2009

**H.R. 3650  
Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research  
and Control Amendments Act of 2009**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Science and Technology  
on October 7, 2009*

**SUMMARY**

H.R. 3650 would amend current law to attempt to reduce the effects of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia (reduced oxygen level) in certain bodies of water. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$41 million a year over the 2010-2014 period for programs by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to mitigate the effects of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$153 million over the 2010-2014 period and \$22 million after 2014. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 3650 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**

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 3650 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					2010-2014
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
<b>SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Spending Under Current Law <sup>a</sup>						
Authorization Level	30	0	0	0	0	30
Estimated Outlays	20	6	4	0	0	30
Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	11	41	41	41	41	175
Estimated Outlays	7	29	36	40	41	153
Estimated Spending Under H.R. 3650						
Authorization Level	41	41	41	41	41	205
Estimated Outlays	27	35	40	40	41	183

a. The 2010 level is the amount authorized for that year; a full-year appropriation for 2010 has not yet been provided for this program.

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 3650 will be enacted near the start of fiscal year 2010 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar NOAA and EPA programs.

H.R. 3650 would authorize the appropriation of \$35 million a year over the 2010-2014 period for a NOAA program to mitigate the effects of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia in coastal waters. The bill also would authorize the appropriation of \$6 million annually through 2014 for NOAA and EPA to conduct similar programs for freshwater systems. (In 2010, \$30 million is authorized to be appropriated for harmful algal blooms and hypoxia programs under current law.) The bill would direct NOAA to enhance several existing grant programs and establish two new programs related to algal blooms and hypoxia. The bill also would require NOAA to oversee and coordinate regional efforts to address related problems. Finally, the bill would require NOAA to submit biennial reports to the Congress describing the activities of the program.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3650 would cost \$153 million over the 2010-2014 period and \$22 million after 2014.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 3650 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

## **PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE**

On September 2, 2009, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 952, the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2009, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on August 5, 2009. Both S. 952 and H.R. 3650 would amend and reauthorize the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998, but S. 952 would authorize the appropriation of \$45 million a year over the 2010-2014 period. The CBO cost estimates reflect that difference.

## **ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

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