



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 29, 2012

S. 3264

A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
on June 21, 2012*

SUMMARY

S. 3264 would authorize appropriations for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program through 2017. Under this program, EPA provides assistance and grants to the parishes and cities within the Lake Pontchartrain Basin watershed and to the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation for restoration and education projects to improve the ecological health of the basin. The bill would limit the annual authorized funding over the 2013-2017 period to the lesser of \$20 million or the lowest amount appropriated for grants and assistance for any of the preceding five fiscal years. According to EPA, \$1 million is the lowest annual amount appropriated since 2008 for the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program. Thus, CBO estimates that implementing S. 3264 would cost \$5 million over the 2013-2017 period.

Pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply to this legislation because the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 3264 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 S. 3264 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					2013- 2017
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Estimated Authorization Level	1	1	1	1	1	5
Estimated Outlays	1	1	1	1	1	5

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 3264 will be enacted near the beginning of fiscal year 2013 and that the estimated amounts will be appropriated for each year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for the program.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 3264 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. Louisiana, Mississippi, and local governments that participate in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program would benefit from the bill’s reauthorization of grants, research, and restoration activities of the basin. Any costs to those governments would be incurred voluntarily as conditions of federal assistance.

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