



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

June 22, 2011

**S. 76**  
**Strengthening Protections for Children and Communities**  
**from Disease Clusters Act**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
on June 9, 2011*

**SUMMARY**

S. 76 would require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop guidelines for establishing a systematic and integrated approach to investigating suspected disease clusters. (Disease clusters are defined as the occurrence of a greater-than-expected number of cases of a particular disease within a group of individuals, geographical area, or time period.) This legislation also would require EPA to establish and operate two regional response centers and response teams to investigate potential disease clusters or environmental pollutants or toxic substances associated with those disease clusters. In addition, S. 76 would authorize EPA to provide grants and enter into cooperative agreements with institutions of higher education to support research and operational activities performed by the response teams. Under the bill, EPA also could make technical assistance grants to any group of individuals affected by a suspected disease cluster.

Based on information from EPA, CBO estimates that implementing S. 76 would cost about \$76 million over the 2012-2016 period, subject to appropriation of the necessary amounts. That funding would provide for additional personnel, contractors, grants and cooperative agreements, and other administrative activities.

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

S. 76 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. 76 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					2012- 2016
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Grants and Cooperative Agreements with Institutions of Higher Learning						
Estimated Authorization Level	5	5	5	5	5	25
Estimated Outlays	2	4	5	5	5	21
Grants to Affected Groups						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	4	4	4	4	16
Estimated Outlays	0	4	4	4	4	16
Support for Response Centers and Teams						
Estimated Authorization Level	4	4	4	4	4	20
Estimated Outlays	3	4	4	4	4	19
Other EPA Administrative Support						
Estimated Authorization Level	4	4	4	4	4	20
Estimated Outlays	4	4	4	4	4	20
Total Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	13	17	17	17	17	81
Estimated Outlays	9	16	17	17	17	76

Note: EPA = Environmental Protection Agency.

## BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 76 will be enacted by the end of fiscal year 2011 and that the necessary amounts will be appropriated each year.

Based on information from EPA, CBO estimates that in 2012 EPA would spend about \$9 million to establish the guidelines for investigating disease clusters and to establish and provide some initial support for the response centers and teams responsible for investigating those disease clusters. Included in that cost is funding for about 25 additional personnel, contractors, a small number of grants and cooperative agreements for institutions of higher learning, and other administrative support. In subsequent years when the response centers and teams are fully operational, CBO expects that EPA would spend

additional resources to provide grants and enter into cooperative agreements with institutions of higher education to support those response centers and teams and to provide grants to affected groups. As a result, EPA's costs would increase to \$16 million in 2013 and \$17 million annually in subsequent years.

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

S. 76 contains no intergovernmental mandates or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. State, local, and tribal governments could receive grants and technical assistance authorized by the bill.

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