



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 16, 2013

### **H.R. 1994** **Election Assistance Commission Termination Act**

*As reported by the Committee on House Administration on June 4, 2013*

#### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 1994 would eliminate the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and transfer some of its responsibilities to the Federal Election Commission (FEC), while the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) would be responsible for winding down the commission's contracts and agreements. The EAC would terminate within 60 days of the bill's enactment.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1994 would reduce spending that is subject to appropriation by \$42 million over the 2014-2018 period. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

H.R. 1994 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 1994 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 800 (general government).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2014-
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2018
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Terminating Election Assistance Commission						
Estimated Authorization Level	-9	-10	-10	-10	-11	-50
Estimated Outlays	-8	-9	-9	-10	-10	-46
Federal Election Commission						
Estimated Authorization Level	*	*	*	*	*	1
Estimated Outlays	*	*	*	*	*	1
Office of Management and Budget						
Estimated Authorization Level	2	1	0	0	0	3
Estimated Outlays	2	1	0	0	0	3
Total Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	-7	-9	-10	-10	-11	-46
Estimated Outlays	-6	-8	-9	-10	-10	-42

Note: \* = less than \$500,000.

## BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted before the end of 2013, that amounts not needed after eliminating the EAC would not be appropriated, that the necessary amounts for new activities will be appropriated near the start of each fiscal year, and that the new spending will follow historical patterns for similar activities.

The EAC advises state and local governments on administering elections and provides grants to states to replace punch-card voting machines and make other improvements to voting systems. The commission also develops voluntary standards for managing elections, serves as a clearinghouse for information, and reviews procedures for administering federal elections.

### Terminating Election Assistance Commission

Eliminating the EAC would reduce the need for appropriated funds in future years. Under current law, up to \$10 million is authorized to be appropriated annually for the EAC. In fiscal year 2013, the commission received an appropriation of \$9 million. Assuming appropriations would continue under current law at that level with an adjustment for anticipated inflation, CBO estimates that terminating the EAC would reduce spending that is subject to appropriation by \$46 million over the 2014-2018 period.

## **Federal Election Commission**

H.R. 1994 would transfer some EAC responsibilities to the FEC. Based on information from the EAC and FEC, CBO expects that those new responsibilities would require the FEC to hire one or two additional employees. CBO estimates that those additional employees would cost nearly \$1 million over the next five years.

## **Office of Management and Budget**

OMB would be responsible for closing down the EAC and fulfilling the agency's final contracts and agreements. Based on information from the EAC, final responsibilities would involve auditing competitive grant programs. CBO estimates that closing down the agency would cost \$3 million over the 2014-2018 period, assuming the appropriation of the necessary amounts.

**PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

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

H.R. 1994 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

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