



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

February 12, 2014

**S. 864**  
**Grassroots Rural and Small Community Water Systems Assistance Act**  
*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
on February 6, 2014*

**SUMMARY**

S. 864 would authorize the appropriation of \$15 million annually over the 2015-2019 period for the Environmental Protection Agency’s program that provides technical assistance to small public water systems. The authorization for this program expired in 2003. CBO estimates that implementing S. 864 would cost \$67 million over the next five years, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. Pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply to S. 864 because it would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 864 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

**ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 864 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 |      |      |      |      | 2015-2019 |
|--|--|------|------|------|------|-----------|
|  | 2015                                   | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |           |

**CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION**

|                     |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Authorization Level | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 75 |
| Estimated Outlays   | 8  | 14 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 67 |

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 864 will be enacted by the end of fiscal year 2014, that the specified amounts will be appropriated in each year starting in 2015, and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for the technical assistance program. The legislation would authorize funding for nonprofit organizations to help small public water systems achieve and maintain compliance with national regulations and to support training and engineering evaluations of those water systems.

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

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

S. 864 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. Activities authorized in the bill would assist public water systems to comply with national standards for primary drinking water.

## **ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

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