



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

April 27, 2015

**H.R. 1472**  
**Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2015**  
*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
on April 15, 2015*

**SUMMARY**

H.R. 1472 would authorize appropriations totaling \$38 million over the 2016-2018 period for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to modernize the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS). The bill also would establish a committee to develop and submit recommendations for improving the system. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1472 would cost \$37 million over the next five years, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

Enacting this legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

H.R. 1472 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 effect of H.R. 1472 is shown in the following table. The cost of this legislation falls within budget function 450 (community and regional development).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2016-2020
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	

**CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION**

Estimated Authorization Level	13	13	13	*	*	39
Estimated Outlays	4	8	11	8	5	37

Notes: \* = Less than \$500,000. Details may not sum to totals because of rounding.

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2015 and that amounts specified and estimated to be necessary will be appropriated for each year.

H.R. 1472 would authorize the appropriation of \$12.8 million per year over the 2016-2018 period for DHS to modernize and implement IPAWS. The annual authorization level is roughly the same amount that has been allocated for that activity in recent years.

IPAWS utilizes multiple technologies (for example, satellite radios, computers, and cellular phones) in addition to traditional radio and television communications to provide information about an impending or ongoing emergency situation. The bill specifies several criteria for modernization that IPAWS would be required to meet. DHS is currently pursuing several of those criteria under Executive Order 13407. Other goals not specified by that order, but that are contained in the bill, include training state and local governments and other stakeholders and ensuring that IPAWS can withstand terrorist attacks.

The bill also would establish an advisory committee to develop recommendations to continue improving IPAWS. Within one year of enactment, the committee would submit a report to the Congress outlining those recommendations. However, because the committee would not terminate until after 2018 (the last year in which the bill specifies an authorization level), additional discretionary appropriations would be necessary to continue operations of the committee beyond that date. Based on historical expenditures for similar activities, CBO estimates that providing that funding would cost about \$1 million over the 2019-2020 period.

Based on the rate of prior spending by DHS for IPAWS work, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1472 would cost \$37 million over the next five years, assuming appropriation of the specified amounts.

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

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

H.R. 1472 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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