



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 1, 2015

### **H.R. 1738** **Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2015**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Homeland Security on May 20, 2015*

#### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 1738 would authorize the appropriation of \$38 million over the 2016-2018 period for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to operate and 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. 1738 would cost \$37 million over the next five years, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts over the 2016-2018 period.

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

H.R. 1738 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. 1738 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	
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
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 the necessary amounts will be appropriated for each year during the three-year authorization period.

CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$37 million over the 2016-2018 period for DHS to modernize and to continue to employ IPAWS. In recent years, \$12 million has been allocated annually for IPAWS, and recent annual budget requests have sought \$15 million or more to operate IPAWS.

IPAWS uses 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 performance criteria that IPAWS would be required to meet. DHS is currently pursuing several of those criteria under Executive Order 13407. In addition to codifying elements of the executive order, the bill specifies additional criteria for IPAWS, including training state and local governments and other stakeholders to use the system, conducting nationwide testing of the system every five years, and ensuring that IPAWS can withstand terrorist attacks.

The bill also would establish an advisory committee to develop recommendations to continue improving IPAWS and require it to submit a report of its findings to the Congress within one year of enactment. 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 continuing the work of the advisory committee would cost about \$1 million over the 2019-2020 period.

Based on the rate of current spending by DHS for IPAWS work, CBO estimates that implementing the three-year authorization for IPAWS in H.R. 1738 would cost \$37 million over the 2016-2020 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

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

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

H.R. 1738 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

## **PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE**

On April 27, 2015, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 1472, the 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. The two bills are similar and the CBO cost estimates are the same.

On May 21, 2015, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 1180, the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2015, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on May 6, 2015. S. 1180 and H.R. 1738 are similar and the CBO cost estimates are the same.

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