



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

March 21, 2016

**H.R. 223
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2016**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
on March 2, 2016*

H.R. 223 would authorize the appropriation of \$1.5 billion over the 2017-2021 period for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to support the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, a program that funds projects targeting invasive aquatic species and nonpoint source pollution. The program received an appropriation of \$300 million for fiscal year 2016.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 223 would cost \$1.35 billion over the next five years, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. Remaining amounts would be spent after 2021.

Because enacting H.R. 223 would not affect direct spending or revenues, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 223 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

H.R. 223 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 H.R. 223 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					2017- 2021
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Authorization Level	300	300	300	300	300	1,500
Estimated Outlays	195	255	300	300	300	1,350

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 223 will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2016, the specified amounts will be appropriated in each year starting in 2017, and outlays will follow historical spending patterns for the program.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INCREASE IN LONG-TERM DEFICIT AND DIRECT SPENDING

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 223 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 223 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would benefit state, local, and tribal governments, as well as public institutions of higher education, by authorizing grants for environmental projects. Any costs incurred by those entities, including matching contributions, would be incurred voluntarily.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On CBO February 10, 2016, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 1024, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2016, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on January 20, 2016. Both pieces of legislation would authorize the same level of funding and CBO's estimate of the cost to implement either piece of legislation is the same.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Jon Sperl

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Jon Sperl

Impact on the Private Sector: Amy Petz

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

H. Samuel Papenfuss

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis