



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 17, 2016

H.R. 4680 **National Park Service Centennial Act**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on March 16, 2016

SUMMARY

H.R. 4680 would authorize appropriations for certain programs of the National Park Service (NPS) and the National Park Foundation (NPF). In addition the bill would increase the amount NPS collects (and is authorized to spend) from the sale of passes to enter national parks and from fees on lodging in national parks.

CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$140 million over the 2017-2021 period and an additional \$65 million after 2021, assuming appropriation of the specified amounts.

CBO estimates that enacting the legislation would increase both offsetting receipts from the sale of NPS passes and lodging fees and direct spending of the proceeds. In addition, the bill would establish the Centennial Challenge Fund to accept donations to the NPS. The NPS could spend any donated amounts without further appropriations. CBO estimates that enacting the legislation would result in a small net increase in receipts of about \$2 million over the 2017-2026 period, because spending of the proceeds would lag behind collections over the next 10 years. Because H.R. 4680 would affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. Enacting the legislation would not affect revenues.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4680 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

H.R. 4680 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. 4680 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	
INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION^a						
Authorization Level	28	28	28	28	28	140
Estimated Outlays	28	28	28	28	28	140

a. In addition, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4680 would reduce direct spending by \$2 million over the 2017-2026 period.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 4680 will be enacted near the end of 2016, and that the specified amounts will be appropriated each year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns.

Changes in Spending Subject to Appropriation

The legislation would increase the annual amount authorized to be appropriated for the Volunteers in Parks program by \$3 million, from \$7 million to \$10 million. It also would authorize an annual appropriation of \$25 million for the National Park Foundation for fiscal years 2017 through 2023. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost of \$140 million over the 2017-2021 period, and an additional \$65 million after 2021, assuming appropriation of the specified amounts.

Changes in Direct Spending

H.R. 4680 would establish the Centennial Challenge Fund and allow NPS to collect and spend any donations to that fund to preserve or enhance the national parks. Additionally, the bill would authorize the NPS to collect new fees for lodging facilities in the national parks and would increase the fees for certain NPS entrance passes. Those additional receipts can be spent without further appropriation. CBO estimates that enacting the legislation would result in a small net increase in receipts of about \$2 million over the 2017-2026 period, because spending would lag behind collections over the next 10 years.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS

The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 establishes budget-reporting and enforcement procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or revenues. The net changes in outlays that are subject to those pay-as-you-go procedures are shown in the following table.

CBO Estimate of Pay-As-You-Go Effects for H.R. 4680, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on March 16, 2016

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars												2016-	2016-
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2021	2026	
NET DECREASE (-) IN THE DEFICIT														
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact	0	-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-2	-2	

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 4680 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

INCREASE IN LONG TERM DIRECT SPENDING AND DEFICITS

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4680 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Marin Burnett

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

Impact on the Private Sector: Logan Smith

ESTIMATED APPROVED BY:

H. Samuel Papenfuss

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis