



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

February 18, 2016

**H.R. 894**  
**A bill to extend the authorization of the Highlands Conservation Act**  
*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources  
on February 3, 2016*

**SUMMARY**

H.R. 894 would authorize the appropriation of \$11 million a year through 2021 to conserve land and natural resources in four northeastern states. CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$62 million over the 2016-2021 period and \$4 million after 2021, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts.

Because enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 894 would not increase net direct spending or budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

H.R. 894 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). Any costs incurred by state, local, or tribal governments, including matching contributions, would result from participation in a voluntary federal program.

**ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary effects of H.R. 894 are 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						2016-2021
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	

<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>							
Authorization Level	11	11	11	11	11	11	66
Estimated Outlays	8	10	11	11	11	11	62

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted in 2016 and the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar activities.

H.R. 894 would reauthorize the Highlands Conservation Act, which allows the federal government to fund activities to conserve land and natural resources in certain parts of Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$10 million a year through 2021 to assist those states in acquiring private lands for conservation purposes and \$1 million a year over that period for the Forest Service to provide technical assistance to the affected states. In 2016, the Congress did not appropriate funds to carry out activities under the Highlands Conservation Act. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 894 would cost \$62 million over the 2016-2021 period and \$4 million after 2021.

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

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

H.R. 894 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. Any costs incurred by state, local, or tribal governments, including matching contributions, would result from participation in a voluntary federal program.

## **ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

Federal Costs: Jeff LaFave

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