



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 20, 2015

### **S. 1523**

#### **An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, and for other purposes**

*As passed by the Senate on August 5, 2015*

#### **SUMMARY**

S. 1523 would authorize the appropriation of \$26 million annually over the 2016-2020 period for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Estuary Program. The legislation also would amend the Clean Water Act to require that grants awarded to state, local, and private entities by EPA are awarded in a competitive manner. CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would cost \$112 million over the 2016-2020 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts.

Enacting S. 1523 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

S. 1523 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA), and 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 effect of this legislation 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					2016-2020
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Authorization Level	26	26	26	26	26	130
Estimated Outlays	12	22	26	26	26	112

**BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

CBO assumes that S. 1523 will be enacted near the start of 2016 and that the amounts authorized will be appropriated each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for the National Estuary Program. The authorization for this program expired at the end of 2010, but \$26 million was appropriated for the program for 2015. Under the National Estuary Program, EPA develops plans for attaining or maintaining water quality in an estuary.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

S. 1523 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA, and any costs incurred by state, local, or tribal governments, including matching contributions, would result from participation in a voluntary federal program.

**PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE:**

On April 22, 2015, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 944, a bill to reauthorize the National Estuary Programs, and for other purposes, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on April 14, 2015. Both H.R. 944 and S. 1523 would reauthorize the National Estuary Program, although H.R. 944 would authorize the appropriation of \$1 million more annually over the 2016-2020 period.

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