



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

February 23, 2016

### **S. 1674**

#### **Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Act**

*As reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
on January 20, 2016*

#### **SUMMARY**

S. 1674 would require the Long Island Sound office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to study the impact of climate change on the Long Island Sound watershed, develop conservation strategies, and increase public education about the watershed. In addition, the bill would authorize appropriations through 2020 for activities related to those purposes and for EPA to operate the Office of the Management Conference of the Long Island Sound Study.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized and estimated amounts, CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would cost \$310 million over the 2016-2021 period.

Because enacting S. 1674 would not affect direct spending or revenues, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. CBO estimates that enacting S. 1674 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

S. 1674 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 S. 1674 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- 2021
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>							
Grants to Support Long Island Sound Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan							
Authorization Level	37	40	40	40	40	0	197
Estimated Outlays	9	34	40	40	40	22	185
Long Island Sound Stewardship Grants							
Authorization Level	23	25	25	25	25	0	123
Estimated Outlays	10	21	25	25	25	14	120
Office of the Management Conference of the Long Island Sound Study							
Estimated Authorization Level	1	1	1	1	1	0	5
Estimated Outlays	1	1	1	1	1	0	5
Total Changes							
Authorization Level <sup>a</sup>	61	66	66	66	66	0	325
Estimated Outlays	20	56	66	66	66	36	310

a. The Long Island Sound program run by the Environmental Protection Agency received appropriations totaling \$4.5 million in fiscal year 2016 to carry out many of the activities that would be reauthorized by S. 1674. The authorization level shown here for 2016 is the difference between the amounts already appropriated and the amounts that would be authorized by S. 1674.

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 1674 will be enacted during fiscal year 2016, the specified and estimated amounts will be appropriated in each year starting in 2016, and outlays will follow historical spending patterns for the existing programs.

The legislation would authorize the appropriation of \$40 million annually over the 2016-2020 period for EPA to implement a comprehensive conservation and management plan for the Long Island Sound. S. 1674 also would authorize the appropriation of \$25 million annually over that same period for EPA to provide grants to state and local governments, nonprofit organizations, and private landowners to procure and enhance sites within the Long Island Sound watershed, and to cover administrative costs.

In addition to the amounts specifically authorized by the bill, CBO estimates that about \$5 million would be needed over the 2016-2020 period to operate the Office of the Management Conference of the Long Island Sound Study.

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

**INCREASE IN LONG-TERM DEFICIT AND DIRECT SPENDING**

CBO estimates that enacting S. 1674 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**

S. 1674 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.

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