



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

February 10, 2015

S. 192 **Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2015**

*As reported by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
on February 3, 2015*

SUMMARY

S. 192 would amend the Older Americans Act (OAA) of 1965, which provides funding through the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Labor for services to the elderly, including state and local community programs on aging (such as congregate nutrition services and caregiver support), community service employment, and services to help prevent elder abuse. The authorization for most of the OAA programs expired in 2011, but those programs have continued to receive appropriations each year since that time. Those programs received discretionary appropriations totaling \$1.9 billion for 2015.

CBO estimates the bill would authorize appropriations totaling \$5.8 billion for fiscal years 2016-2018. Assuming appropriation of the estimated amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 192 would increase outlays by \$5.8 billion over the 2016-2020 period.

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

S. 192 would not impose intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 192 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 500 (education, employment, training, and social services).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2016- 2020
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Programs Administered by the Department of Health and Human Services						
Estimated Authorization Level	1,464	1,488	1,514	0	0	4,466
Estimated Outlays	937	1,428	1,488	535	44	4,432
Programs Administered by the Department of Labor						
Estimated Authorization Level	441	449	458	0	0	1,347
Estimated Outlays	75	429	446	377	11	1,338
Total Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	1,904	1,937	1,972	0	0	5,813
Estimated Outlays	1,012	1,857	1,933	913	55	5,770

Note: Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

This estimate assumes that S. 192 will be enacted near the beginning of fiscal year 2016. For fiscal years 2016 through 2018, CBO assumes the estimated and specified amounts will be appropriated. The estimated outlays reflect historical spending patterns for the affected programs.

Spending Subject to Appropriation

S. 192 would reauthorize and amend the Older Americans Act. Most of the authorizations for those programs have expired, but the Congress appropriated funds totaling \$1.9 billion for those programs for 2015.

Programs Administered by the Department of Health and Human Services. The Department of Health and Human Services administers several programs authorized by the Older Americans Act. Those programs include Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals, Home and Community-based Supportive Services (such as assistance with transportation, in-home care, and adult day care), and support for family caregivers. S. 192 would authorize the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2016-2018 for most of those programs, which received appropriations totaling \$1.3 billion for fiscal

year 2015. For programs without an authorization of a specific amount, CBO estimated the authorized amounts by inflating the amount appropriated for 2015.

The bill also would authorize the appropriation of specific amounts for two of the programs for fiscal years 2016-2018: support for family caregivers at \$187 million for each of those fiscal years, and support for Native American caregivers at \$8 million for each of those years. Appropriations for those programs totaled \$152 million for fiscal year 2015.

CBO estimates that the bill would authorize a total of \$4.5 billion over the 2016-2018 period for the Department of Health and Human Services.

Programs Administered by the Department of Labor. The Department of Labor administers the Senior Community Service Employment program, which provides low-income senior citizens with work-based job training and community service opportunities. S. 192 would authorize the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary for that program for fiscal years 2016-2018. Appropriations for the program totaled \$434 million for fiscal year 2015. Based on that appropriation, CBO estimates new authorizations for the program under S. 192 would total \$1.3 billion through 2018.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS. None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 192 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. Programs and activities authorized in the bill would benefit state, local, and tribal governments that provide services to elderly and disabled individuals. To the extent that those governments are required to amend their plans and activities to achieve new performance outcomes, those entities could incur additional costs. However, those costs would be incurred voluntarily as a condition of receiving federal assistance.

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