



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 5, 2015

S. 653

Water Resources Research Amendments Act of 2015

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
on April 29, 2015*

SUMMARY

S. 653 would authorize appropriations for grants from the U.S. Geological Survey to colleges and universities to support research related to increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of new and existing water treatment systems. This legislation would authorize the appropriation of \$7.5 million a year through 2020 for such grants. In addition, S. 653 would authorize the appropriation of \$1.5 million annually through 2020 for the Secretary of the Interior to fund additional research and to synthesize the results of research conducted by colleges and universities on interstate water issues.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 653 would cost \$43 million over the 2016-2020 period and \$2 million after 2020. Because enacting S. 653 would not affect direct spending or revenues, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

S. 653 contains no 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. 653 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	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Research Grants						
Authorization Level	8	8	8	8	8	38
Estimated Outlays	6	8	8	8	8	36
Funding for Additional Research						
Authorization Level	2	2	2	2	2	8
Estimated Outlays	1	2	2	2	2	7
Total Changes						
Authorization Level	9	9	9	9	9	45
Estimated Outlays	7	9	9	9	9	43

Note: Details do not sum to totals because of rounding.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 653 will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2015 and that the specified amounts will be appropriated for each year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for those activities.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 653 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. The bill would benefit institutes of higher education that participate as research and technology centers under the Water Resources Act of 1984. Any costs to those entities, including matching contributions, would be incurred voluntarily as a condition of receiving federal assistance.

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:

Theresa Gullo

Assistant Director for Budget Analysis