



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

January 13, 2014

H.R. 2413
Weather Forecasting Improvement Act of 2013

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
on December 5, 2013*

SUMMARY

H.R. 2413 would authorize appropriations over the 2014-2017 period for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to improve forecasting of severe weather events. The bill also would authorize NOAA to carry out various other activities related to weather forecasting and research.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized and necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$530 million over the 2014-2019 period. Enacting H.R. 2413 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

H.R. 2413 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 H.R. 2413 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						2014- 2019
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION							
Weather Forecasting Program							
Authorization Level	113	120	120	120	0	0	473
Estimated Outlays	45	87	107	119	72	30	460
Planning and Research Activities							
Estimated Authorization Level	14	14	14	14	14	14	84
Estimated Outlays	6	10	12	14	14	14	70
Total Changes							
Estimated Authorization Level	127	134	134	134	14	14	557
Estimated Outlays	51	97	119	133	86	44	530

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted in 2014 and that the authorized and necessary amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar NOAA programs. Although funds have probably been appropriated through January 15, 2014, to conduct activities authorized under the bill, CBO cannot identify those amounts because NOAA has not yet allocated its 2014 appropriations for those activities.

H.R. 2413 would authorize the appropriation of \$112.5 million in 2014 and \$120 million a year over the 2015-2017 period for NOAA to develop a program to improve forecasting of severe weather events. Under the bill, NOAA would use those funds to purchase equipment and conduct research to improve the agency's forecasting capabilities and warning systems. In 2013, the agency spent about \$80 million to fund similar activities. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the program would cost \$460 million over the 2014-2019 period.

The legislation also would require NOAA to conduct additional activities related to weather research. H.R. 2413 also would establish committees to help NOAA prioritize research initiatives and coordinate weather-related research across federal agencies. Finally, the bill would establish programs to allow NOAA employees and postdoctoral fellows to work as visiting researchers at National Weather Service facilities. Based on information provided by NOAA and assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that conducting those activities would cost \$70 million over the 2014-2019 period. Those amounts would be used to hire new employees and contractors, purchase

new equipment, and provide grants to academic institutions to perform experiments related to weather.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 2413 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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