



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

November 16, 2011

**S. 1701**  
**Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research**  
**and Control Amendments Act of 2011**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,  
and Transportation on November 2, 2011*

**SUMMARY**

S. 1701 would reauthorize and modify the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$30 million annually over the 2012-2015 period for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to mitigate the effects of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia (reduced oxygen level) in certain bodies of water.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$110 million over the 2012-2016 period and \$10 million after 2016. Enacting S. 1701 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

S. 1701 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. 1701 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					2012-2016
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Authorization Level	30	30	30	30	0	120
Estimated Outlays	10	23	27	30	20	110

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted early in 2012 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar NOAA activities.

S. 1701 would authorize the appropriation of \$30 million a year over the 2012-2015 period for certain NOAA activities related to mitigating the effects of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia in coastal waters and the Great Lakes. Those activities include providing grants, conducting research, preparing reports, and overseeing an interagency task force. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$110 million over the 2012-2016 period and \$10 million after 2016.

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

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

S. 1701 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

## **PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE**

On August 19, 2011, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 2484, the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2011, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology on July 28, 2011. Both H.R. 2484 and S. 1701 would reauthorize and modify the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998, but H.R. 2484 would authorize appropriations totaling \$83 million over the 2012-2015 period, including \$11 million for certain

Environmental Protection Agency activities. The CBO cost estimates reflect that difference.

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