



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

August 20, 2009

**H.R. 1771
Chesapeake Bay Science, Education, and Ecosystem
Enhancement Act of 2009**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on July 29, 2009

SUMMARY

H.R. 1771 would reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The bill would authorize appropriations totalling \$79 million over the 2011-2014 period to support certain activities carried out by the Chesapeake Bay Office. The bill also would authorize the Chesapeake Bay Office to accept donations of funds, property and services for use in implementing its programs.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1771 would cost \$68 million over the 2010-2014 period and \$11 million after 2014. Enacting the legislation would have no net impact on revenues or direct spending.

H.R. 1771 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. 1771 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					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010-2014

CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION

Authorization Level	0	17	19	21	23	79
Estimated Outlays	0	11	16	19	22	68

Note: Numbers in table do not add to totals because of rounding.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes the bill will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2009 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated each year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar NOAA programs.

H.R. 1771 would authorize appropriations totaling \$79 million over the 2011-2014 period for the Chesapeake Bay Office of NOAA. The bill would authorize the Chesapeake Bay Office to expand grant programs that promote the protection and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The bill also would authorize the director of the Chesapeake Bay Office to carry out certain activities that would enhance watershed monitoring. Finally, the bill would require the Chesapeake Bay Office to prepare a biennial report that identifies progress made in protecting and restoring the Chesapeake Bay.

Additionally, H.R. 1771 would authorize the Chesapeake Bay Office to accept donations of funds, property, and services for use in implementing its programs. Based on information from NOAA, CBO expects that most of those donations would be in-kind support from other federal agencies. CBO estimates that monetary donations received by the Chesapeake Bay Office would not exceed \$500,000 per year.

Authorization for the Chesapeake Bay Office expired in 2006. In fiscal years 2007 through 2009, the Chesapeake Bay Office received appropriations ranging from \$12 million to \$19 million annually, including \$15 million in fiscal year 2009.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 1771 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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