



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

December 8, 2017

H.R. 717
Listing Reform Act
As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on October 4, 2017

SUMMARY

H.R. 717 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to make a determination under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) that placing species on the endangered or threatened list would be warranted but precluded because the action would have significant effects on the economy.

Using information from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$16 million over the 2018-2022 period. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 717 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

H.R. 717 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 effect of H.R. 717 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					2018-2022
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Estimated Authorization Level	4	4	4	3	3	18
Estimated Outlays	2	4	4	3	3	16

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted early in calendar year 2018 and that the necessary amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar activities.

H.R. 717 would authorize the Secretary to prevent the listing of species under the ESA if the action would have significant effects on the economy, including effects on property values, employment, or state and local revenue collections. CBO expects that the agency will determine that, on average, about 20 new species each year warrant listing under the ESA over the 2018-2022 period. CBO estimates that the economic analyses necessary to determine whether those species should be listed under ESA would cost \$150,000 each. In addition, CBO expects that the agency would complete 25 additional analyses over the 2018-2020 period for listing determinations in progress at the time the bill is enacted. On that basis CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$16 million over the 2018-2022 period.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INCREASE IN LONG-TERM DIRECT SPENDING AND DEFICITS

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 717 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

MANDATES

H.R. 717 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY

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