



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 26, 2018

### **S. 593** **Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act**

*As reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
on September 18, 2018*

S. 593 would allow states to use grants awarded under the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to fund up to 90 percent of the cost of building or operating public target ranges. Under that act, half of all federal excise taxes collected on pistols, revolvers, bows, arrows, and archery accessories are apportioned to states as grants for hunter education programs and for the construction and development of target ranges. Current awards can be used to cover 75 percent of the programs' costs.

The bill also would allow states to retain their shares of Pittman-Robertson funds for up to five years to acquire or construct target ranges. After five years, those funds would be reapportioned for other uses by the Secretary of the Interior. Under current law, any such funds that are not spent within two years are reapportioned and spent on other activities. Neither of those provisions would affect the total amount of funds that could be spent but could have a minor effect on the timing of when those funds are spent. On that basis, CBO estimates that enacting those provisions would have no significant effect on direct spending.

Finally, S. 593 would limit the federal government's liability for certain incidents that occur on target ranges that are either constructed with Pittman-Robertson funds or located on federal lands. Previous federal payments resulting from such lawsuits have been minimal; on that basis, CBO estimates that enacting this provision would reduce direct spending by an insignificant amount over the 2019-2028 period.

Because enacting S. 593 could affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. Enacting S. 593 would not affect revenues.

CBO estimates that enacting S. 593 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029.

S. 593 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

S. 593 would impose a private-sector mandate as defined in UMRA by eliminating an individual's existing right to seek compensation from the federal government for damages occurring at a public target range supported by federal funds. The cost of the mandate would be the forgone value of awards and settlements in such claims. Information from the Department of the Interior indicates that few, if any, of those types of lawsuits are brought against the U.S. government. Because such claims would probably be uncommon in the future, CBO estimates that the cost of the mandate would be small and fall well below the annual threshold established in UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$160 million in 2018 adjusted annually for inflation).

On May 11, 2018, CBO transmitted a cost estimate of H.R. 788, the Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on April 18, 2018. The two pieces of legislation are similar, and CBO's estimates of their budgetary effects are the same.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Janani Shankaran (for federal costs) and Zachary Byrum (for mandates). The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.