

H.R. 4044, Protect and Restore America’s Estuaries Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on September 20, 2019

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2020	2020-2024	2020-2029
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	-17	70	197
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

Under current law \$26.5 million is authorized to be appropriated in 2020 and 2021 for the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) National Estuary Program. The bill would eliminate those authorizations, but would authorize the appropriation of \$50 million a year over the 2022-2026 period for the program.

Under the National Estuary Program, EPA designates national estuaries and establishes a management conference that implements conservation and management plan for estuaries. EPA provides grants and makes competitive awards to aid implementation of those plans. The Congress appropriated \$27 million in 2019 for those purposes. H.R. 4044 would add several new areas to a list of regions that EPA is required to give priority consideration to under the program, expand the selection criteria for competitive awards, and expand the purpose of management conferences to include addressing the effects of extreme weather events and increasing public education on the conditions of the estuary.

Assuming appropriation action consistent with the bill and based on historical spending patterns, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$70 million over the 2020-2024 period and \$127 million after 2024. The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).



**Table 1.
Estimated Budgetary Effects of H.R. 4044**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars										2020-2024	2020-2029
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029		
	Increases or Decreases (-) in Spending Subject to Appropriation											
Estimated Authorizations	-26	-26	50	50	50	50	50	0	0	0	97	197
Estimated Outlays	-17	-23	25	39	46	50	50	18	8	3	70	197

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Stephen Rabent. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.