

H.R. 5770, Water Monitoring and Tracking Essential Resources (WATER) Data Improvement Act

As passed by the House of Representatives on July 8, 2024

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2024	2024-2029	2024-2034
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	201	not estimated
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035?	No	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No
		Mandate Effects	
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

H.R. 5770 would reauthorize appropriations through 2028 for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to operate and enhance the Federal Priority Streamgages program, observe groundwater resources, and develop new methods for monitoring and measuring water levels.

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2024 and that the authorized and necessary amounts will be provided each year. Outlays are based on historical spending patterns for the affected programs.

Federal Priority Streamgages Program

H.R. 5770 would authorize the appropriation of whatever amounts are necessary to implement the streamgages program through 2028. In 2024, the USGS allocated \$26 million for the program. On that basis and accounting for anticipated inflation, CBO estimates that implementing the program would cost \$110 million over the 2024-2029 period, assuming appropriation of the estimated amounts.

Other Activities

The act also would authorize appropriations totaling \$19 million annually for the USGS to expand its network of monitoring stations, implement a groundwater monitoring program,

See also

[CBO's Cost Estimates Explained](#), [CBO Describes Its Cost-Estimating Process](#), [Glossary](#)

and develop new technologies for monitoring and measuring water levels. In 2024, the USGS allocated \$3 million to its groundwater monitoring program and no funds for new stations or technology development. On that basis, CBO estimates the act would authorize \$16 million in additional funding for 2024.

Based on historical spending patterns for similar activities, CBO estimates that implementing those activities would cost \$91 million over the 2024-2029 period.

The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under H.R. 5770

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2024-2029
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	
Federal Priority Streamgages Program							
Estimated Authorization	0	27	28	29	30	0	114
Estimated Outlays	0	19	26	28	29	8	110
Other Activities ^a							
Authorization	16	19	19	19	19	0	92
Estimated Outlays	0	23	25	19	19	5	91
Total Changes							
Estimated Authorization	16	46	47	48	49	0	206
Estimated Outlays	0	42	51	47	48	13	201

a. In 2024, the U.S. Geological Survey allocated \$3 million to implement its groundwater monitoring program from funds provided in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Public Law 118-42). The amounts shown in 2024 reflect the difference between what the act would authorize in 2024 and the amount already provided.

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