



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

January 7, 2014

H.R. 3527 **Poison Center Network Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce
on December 11, 2013*

SUMMARY

H.R. 3527 would reauthorize the poison control program, currently scheduled to expire in 2014, for the 2015-2019 period. The program, which is administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), provides grants to poison centers and other organizations that focus on poison control, funds a national media campaign, and maintains a national toll-free number.

The bill would authorize the appropriation of about \$30 million a year for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019 for the poison control program. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost about \$125 million over the 2015-2019 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. Pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply to this legislation because it would not affect direct spending or revenues.

The bill 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 impact of H.R. 3527 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 550 (health).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2015- 2019
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Authorization Level	30	30	30	30	30	151
Estimated Outlays	12	25	29	29	29	125

Note: Numbers may not sum to totals because of rounding.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

H.R. 3527 would authorize annual appropriations of about \$30 million for each of the fiscal years 2015 through 2019 for HRSA to administer the poison control program. The Congress appropriated about \$19 million for the program for fiscal year 2013.

Sequestration under the Budget Control Act of 2011 reduced the 2013 funding to about \$18 million. That reduced funding level has been continued in fiscal year 2014 through January 15, 2014. For this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted by the end of fiscal year 2014 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each year.

H.R. 3527 would authorize the appropriation of \$28.6 million a year for 2015 through 2019 for grant assistance to poison control centers that offer the public and health care providers treatment advice on poisonings. The bill also would authorize the appropriation of \$1.5 million a year for 2015 through 2019 to maintain a national toll-free number that assists poison control centers and to fund a national media campaign to educate the public and health care providers about poison prevention.

Based on historical patterns of spending for the program, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost about \$125 million over the 2015-2019 period, assuming appropriation of the specified amounts.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 3527 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. State, local, and tribal governments that operate poison control centers could benefit from grant funds authorized by the bill.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Lisa Ramirez-Branum

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Lisa Ramirez-Branum

Impact on the Private Sector: Alexia Diorio

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Holly Harvey

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis