



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

August 22, 2013

S. 1254
Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research
and Control Amendments Act of 2013

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation on July 30, 2013*

SUMMARY

S. 1254 would reauthorize and modify the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$20.5 million annually over the 2014-2018 period for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to mitigate the effects of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia (reduced oxygen level) in certain bodies of water.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$92 million over the 2014-2018 period and \$11 million after 2018. Enacting S. 1254 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

S. 1254 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 S. 1254 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					2014- 2018
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Authorization Level	21	21	21	21	21	103
Estimated Outlays	13	17	20	21	21	92

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

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2013 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar NOAA activities.

S. 1254 would authorize the appropriation of about \$21 million a year over the 2014-2018 period for certain NOAA activities related to mitigating the effects of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia in coastal waters and the Great Lakes. Those activities include providing grants, conducting research, preparing reports, and overseeing an interagency task force. Over the 2008-2012 period, NOAA spent about \$18 million a year on similar activities. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$92 million over the 2014-2018 period and \$11 million after 2018.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 1254 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

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