



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

May 21, 2018

H.R. 221
Hydrographic Services Improvement Amendments Act
As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on May 8, 2018

SUMMARY

H.R. 221 would authorize the appropriation of \$183 million annually from 2019 to 2023 for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to conduct certain hydrographic activities (the measurement and description of features that affect maritime navigation).

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 221 would cost \$811 million over the 2019-2023 period and \$104 million after 2023, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts.

Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 221 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029.

H.R. 221 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 effect of H.R. 221 is shown in the following table. The costs of the legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars						2019-2023
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION							
Authorization Level	0	183	183	183	183	183	915
Estimated Outlays	0	114	157	178	181	181	811

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 221 will be enacted near the end of 2018 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year beginning in 2019. Estimated outlays are based on historic spending patterns for the affected programs.

H.R. 221 would authorize the appropriation of \$183 million a year from 2019 through 2023 to carry out hydrographic activities, including nautical mapping and charting, collecting hydrographic data, maintaining a geodetic reference system (a worldwide coordinate system used for navigation), and measuring tides and currents. In 2018, NOAA allocated \$213 million to carry out similar activities. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 221 would cost \$811 million over the 2019-2023 period and \$104 million after 2023.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INCREASE IN LONG-TERM DIRECT SPENDING AND DEFICITS

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 221 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029.

MANDATES

H.R. 221 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On March 3, 2017, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 171, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Amendments and Hydrographic Services Improvement Act Reauthorization Amendments Act of 2017, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on January 24, 2017. Provisions of title V of S. 171 are similar to provisions of H.R. 221. The differences in CBO's estimates of those provisions' costs stem from differences in the fiscal years for which the bills would authorize appropriations.

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