

At a Glance

H.R. 1261, National Landslide Preparedness Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on May 1, 2019

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2019	2019-2024	2019-2029
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Deficit Effect	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	300	308
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

The bill would

- Authorize the appropriation of \$37 million annually over the 2020-2023 period for the National Landslide Hazards Program
- Authorize the appropriation of \$40 million annually over the 2020-2023 period for the 3D Elevation Program

Estimated budgetary effects would primarily stem from

- Spending of amounts specifically authorized to be appropriated

Detailed estimate begins on the next page.



Bill Summary

H.R. 1261 would direct the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to implement two programs focused on mapping the territory of the United States. Under the bill, the National Landslide Hazards Reduction Program (NLHRP) would develop a national strategy to reduce landslide risks, create and maintain a publicly accessible database on landslide hazards, expand the current early warning system for flash floods and debris flow following wildfires, and lead an interagency coordinating committee on landslide hazards. The bill also would authorize two grant programs under the NLHRP.

Under the 3D Elevation Program, the USGS would be required to develop elevation data for the United States and to produce publicly accessible data products. In implementing the program, the USGS would be authorized to make grants and enter into cooperative agreements. The bill would direct the USGS to head an interagency coordinating committee for the program.

Estimated Federal Cost

The estimated budgetary effect of H.R. 1261 is shown in Table 1. The costs of the legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under H.R. 1261

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2019-2024
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
National Landslide Hazards Reduction Program							
Authorization	0	37	37	37	37	0	148
Estimated Outlays	0	26	35	37	37	11	146
3D Elevation Program							
Authorization	0	40	40	40	40	0	160
Estimated Outlays	0	16	34	40	40	24	154
Total Changes							
Authorization	0	77	77	77	77	0	308
Estimated Outlays	0	42	69	77	77	35	300

Basis of Estimate

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 1261 will be enacted during fiscal year 2019 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year beginning in 2020. Estimated outlays follow historical patterns for similar programs.



H.R. 1261 would authorize the appropriation of \$77 million a year for a total of \$308 million over the 2020-2023 period. Assuming appropriation of those amounts, CBO estimates that the bill would cost \$300 million over the 2020-2024 period and \$8 million after 2024.

National Landslide Hazards Reduction Program

H.R. 1261 would authorize the appropriation of \$37 million annually from 2020 to 2023 for the USGS to implement the NLHRP. CBO estimates that implementing the program as authorized would cost \$146 million over the 2020-2024 period. Currently the USGS operates a similar program that meets some of the requirements of H.R. 1261. In 2019, the USGS allocated about \$4 million to that program.

3D Elevation Program

The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$40 million annually from 2020 to 2023 for the USGS to implement the 3D Elevation Program. CBO estimates that implementing the program would cost \$154 million over the 2020-2024 period. Currently the USGS operates a similar program that meets some of the requirements outlined under H.R. 1261. In 2019, the USGS allocated about \$38 million to that program.

Pay-As-You-Go Considerations: None.

Increase in Long-Term Deficits: None.

Mandates: None.

Previous CBO Estimate

On May 2, 2019, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 529, the National Landslide Preparedness Act, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on April 3, 2019. CBO's estimated costs of implementing the NLHRP are the same for both bills. CBO's estimated costs for implementing the 3D Elevation Program differ because the authorizations of appropriations in the two bills are different.

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