



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 25, 2009

H.R. 3247

A bill to establish a social and behavioral sciences research program at the Department of Energy, and for other purposes

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Science and Technology
on July 29, 2009*

SUMMARY

H.R. 3247 would require the Department of Energy (DOE) to establish a research program to study social and behavioral factors that affect energy consumption. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$60 million over the 2010-2015 period to provide research grants under the program. The bill also would require DOE to appoint a director and establish an advisory committee for the program.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized and necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3247 would cost \$49 million over the 2010-2014 period and \$19 million after 2014. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 3247 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 3247 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 250 (general science, space, and technology).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2010-2014
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2014
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION ^a						
Research Grants						
Authorization Level	10	10	10	10	10	50
Estimated Outlays	5	9	10	10	10	44
Administrative Costs						
Estimated Authorization Level	1	1	1	1	1	5
Estimated Outlays	1	1	1	1	1	5
Total Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	11	11	11	11	11	55
Estimated Outlays	6	10	11	11	11	49

a. In addition to the amounts shown in the table, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3247 would cost \$19 million after 2014.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes the bill will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2009 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated each year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar research programs.

H.R. 3247 would authorize the appropriation of \$10 million a year through 2015 for a DOE grant program to identify social and behavioral factors that influence energy consumption. The bill would require the Secretary of Energy to appoint a program director and establish an advisory committee to develop a research plan for the program. The bill also would require DOE to coordinate with the National Science Foundation (NSF) to administer the program. Based on information from DOE and NSF, CBO estimates that administering the program would cost about \$1 million a year.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 3247 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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