



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 19, 2010

H.R. 3804

National Park Service Authorities and Corrections Act of 2009

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on June 21, 2010*

SUMMARY

H.R. 3804 would make a variety of changes to policies and procedures of the National Park Service (NPS) as well as to laws governing NPS property management. The act also would raise the current ceiling on amounts authorized to be appropriated for the NPS volunteer program. Based on information provided by the NPS and assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that carrying out the volunteer program under the act would cost \$24 million over the 2011-2015 period.

The act also would adjust certain fines and penalties for violations of various laws on properties managed by the NPS. Changing those fines and penalties could increase revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but CBO estimates that any increases would be insignificant.

H.R. 3804 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. 3804 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					2011-
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2015
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Estimated Authorization Level	3	6	6	6	6	27
Estimated Outlays	1	5	6	6	6	24

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 3804 will be enacted near the end of 2010 and that the necessary amounts for the volunteer program will be appropriated for each year. Estimates of outlays are based on historical spending patterns of programs that support volunteer workers in the national parks.

H.R. 3804 would raise the current ceiling on amounts authorized to be appropriated for the NPS volunteer program from \$3.5 million to \$10 million annually. In 2010, the program received an appropriation of about \$3 million. Based on information provided by the NPS, CBO estimates that, under the legislation, the program would expand by 2012 to reach an annual cost of \$10 million. Costs for implementing the bill would total \$24 million over the 2011-2015 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

The legislation also would extend the terms of two advisory boards to the NPS, permit the NPS to enter into agreements with nonprofit organizations at Pearl Harbor, designate the current Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historical Site as an historical park, correct errors in the boundaries of the Lava Beds National Monument, authorize a transfer of land between the NPS and the Department of Transportation, clarify policies regarding the responsibility for snow removal by federal agencies, and make technical changes to laws governing properties managed by the NPS. Based on information from the NPS, CBO estimates that none of those changes would have a significant effect on the federal budget.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS

Enacting H.R. 3804 could increase revenues, but CBO estimates that any such increases would be insignificant.

CBO Estimate of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Effects for H.R. 3804, the National Park Service Authorities and Corrections Act of 2009, as reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on June 21, 2010.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars										2011-	2011-
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2015	2020
NET INCREASE OR DECREASE (-) IN THE DEFICIT												
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 3804 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On December 3, 2009, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 3804 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on November 18, 2009. The two versions of the legislation are very similar. The CBO cost estimate for the version of the legislation ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Resources supersedes the earlier CBO cost estimate, which contained an error that overstated the cost of implementing the legislation.

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