



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 20, 2016

### **H.R. 2494** **Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016**

*As reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations  
on May 9, 2016*

H.R. 2494 would authorize the Administration to promote the efforts of foreign governments and regional entities in countering wildlife trafficking, in particular by providing technical assistance and support to park rangers and law enforcement officers. In total, and assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2494 would cost \$6 million over the 2017-2021 period.

Pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply because enacting H.R. 2494 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2494 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

In 2014, the President issued a national strategy for combating wildlife trafficking. Several federal agencies, including the Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, are members of the task force responsible for implementing that strategy. According to the Department of State, many of the bill's requirements to support international enforcement efforts align with agencies' existing responsibilities. However, the requirements to provide annual strategic assessments of the task force's work and to report annually on countries that are major sources, transit points, or consumers of trafficked products would impose additional costs. CBO estimates that implementing those requirements would cost less than \$500,000 each year and a total of \$1 million over the 2017-2021 period; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

In addition, the bill would authorize security assistance to counter wildlife trafficking. Such assistance could include training, communications and other equipment, and uniforms. Based on information from the Administration and the cost of similar assistance provided in recent years, CBO estimates that implementing this provision would cost \$1 million a year over the 2017-2021 period, assuming appropriation of the estimated amounts.

On July 28, 2015, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 2494 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on June 25, 2015. The two versions of the legislation are similar and CBO's estimate of the discretionary costs of implementing them are the same; however, H.R. 2494 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs would broaden the coverage of federal laws against wildlife trafficking and similar crimes, and CBO's estimate of the direct spending and revenue effects of implementing that version of the legislation reflects that difference.

H.R. 2494 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Sunita D'Monte. The estimate was approved by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.