



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

February 21, 2018

**H.R. 1675
National Landslide Preparedness Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources
on December 13, 2017*

SUMMARY

H.R. 1675 would authorize the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to create the National Landslide Hazards Reduction Program to better respond to and reduce the risk of landslides. The bill also would authorize USGS to create the 3D Elevation Program to develop three-dimensional elevation data for the United States. The authority for each program would expire seven years after enactment. Using information from USGS, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$297 million over the 2019-2022 period. Such spending would be subject to appropriation.

Enacting H.R. 1675 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1675 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

H.R. 1675 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. 1675 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 | | | | | 2018- 2022 |
|---|--|------|------|------|------|---------------|
| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | |
| INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION | | | | | | |
| National Landslide Hazards Reduction Program | | | | | | |
| Estimated Authorization Level | 0 | 33 | 67 | 69 | 70 | 240 |
| Estimated Outlays | 0 | 21 | 54 | 67 | 70 | 213 |
| 3D Elevation Program | | | | | | |
| Estimated Authorization Level | 0 | 25 | 26 | 26 | 27 | 104 |
| Estimated Outlays | 0 | 10 | 22 | 26 | 27 | 84 |
| Total Changes | | | | | | |
| Estimated Authorization Level | 0 | 58 | 93 | 95 | 97 | 344 |
| Estimated Outlays | 0 | 32 | 76 | 93 | 96 | 297 |

Numbers do not sum to totals because of rounding.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

CBO assumes that H.R. 1675 will be enacted late in 2018 and that the necessary amounts will be appropriated for each year beginning in 2019.

National Landslide Hazards Reduction Program

H.R. 1675 would require USGS to establish the National Landslide Hazards Reduction Program. To that end, the bill would require USGS to develop a national strategy to reduce landslide risks, create and maintain a publicly accessible database on landslide hazards, create an early warning system for flash floods and debris flows, and lead an interagency coordinating committee on landslide hazards. The bill also would authorize two new grant programs. The program's authorization would expire seven years after enactment.

Using information from USGS, CBO estimates that when fully implemented the program would cost about \$65 million a year. Of that annual amount, \$25 million would provide salaries and benefits to support 175 additional full-time employees. Another \$20 million would be for grants to localities and for cooperative agreements with nonprofits and universities. The remaining \$20 million would cover contracting and equipment costs to monitor, survey, map, and analyze landslide hazards. CBO expects that the program

would be phased in during 2019 and that full implementation of the program would not occur until 2020. Accounting for anticipated inflation and based on historical spending patterns for similar programs, CBO estimates that outlays for the National Landslide Hazards Reduction Program would total \$213 million over the 2019-2022 period.

3D Elevation Program

H.R. 1675 also would direct USGS to create the 3D Elevation Program to develop elevation data for the United States and to produce elevation data products that are publicly accessible. In implementing the program USGS would be authorized to make grants and enter into cooperative agreements. The bill would direct USGS to head an interagency coordinating committee for the 3D Elevation Program. The program's authorization would expire seven years after enactment.

Currently, USGS operates a program that meets some of the requirements outlined under H.R. 1675. In 2017, USGS allocated \$25 million to that program. Using information from USGS, CBO estimates that implementing the 3D Elevation Program as required under H.R. 1675 would cost an additional \$25 million a year. Of that amount, \$3 million would provide salaries and benefits to support 20 additional full-time employees. Another \$2 million would cover grants to localities and cooperative agreements with nonprofits and universities. The remaining \$20 million would be devoted to contractor support costs and to updating computer systems and other infrastructure. Accounting for anticipated inflation and based on historical spending patterns for the current program, CBO estimates that additional outlays for the 3D Elevation Program would total \$84 million over the 2019-2022 period.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INCREASE IN LONG-TERM DIRECT SPENDING AND DEFICITS

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1675 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

MANDATES

H.R. 1675 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

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