



**Legislative Bulletin.....April 1, 2014**

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**Senate Amendment to H.R. 4152 - To provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine (Rogers, R-KY)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on April 1, 2014, under a motion to suspend the rule and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds vote for passage.

**Summary:** This legislation originally passed the House on March 6, 2014, by a [roll call vote of 385-23](#). The Senate amended the legislation and it is essentially a new bill compared to the House-passed version.

Section 4 of the legislation still allows for Ukraine to receive loan guarantees from the Economic Support Fund (ESF). This provision was essentially the House-passed bill. In this case, ESF funding would be used to provide loan guarantees for Ukraine. This legislation does not indicate the amount of loan guarantees that are provided.

The legislation directs the Secretary of State to identify, secure, and recover assets linked to acts of corruption by Viktor Yanukovich, and other individuals. Mr. Yanukovich is the former President of Ukraine that was recently ousted. More information can be [viewed here](#).

The legislation also authorizes for appropriation \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2015 to for the Secretary to State to carry out new responsibilities. Within 60 days after enactment, the President shall submit a report to Congress detailing a strategy to carry out the new responsibilities. Those new responsibilities include:

- improve democratic governance, transparency, accountability, rule of law, and anti-corruption efforts in Ukraine;

- support efforts by the Government of Ukraine to foster greater unity among the people and regions of the country;
- assist in diversifying Ukraine's economy, trade, and energy supplies, including at the national, regional, and local levels;

H.R. 4152 authorizes for appropriation \$100,000,000 for fiscal years 2015 through 2017 to enhance security cooperation with Ukraine and other countries in central and eastern Europe. Specifically, the President shall provide additional security assistance, including defense articles and defense services (as those terms are defined in section 47 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2794)) and military training, to countries in Central and Eastern Europe, including Ukraine; and support greater reform, professionalism, and capacity-building efforts within the military, intelligence, and security services in Central and Eastern Europe, including Ukraine.

The legislation directs the President to impose sanctions on any person, including a current or former official of the Government of Ukraine or a person acting on behalf of that Government, that the President determines has perpetrated violence or human rights abuses in Ukraine since November 21, 2013. These sanctions will also apply to Russian officials, or associates, that are responsible for, or complicit in, ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, acts of significant corruption in the Russian Federation, including the expropriation of private or public assets for personal gain, corruption related to government contracts or the extraction of natural resources, bribery, or the facilitation or transfer of the proceeds of corruption to foreign jurisdictions. Those individuals shall have certain U.S. assets blocked, and shall be denied a visa to enter the U.S. Attempted violators will be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705).

H.R. 4152 directs the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to Congress, by June 1, 2015, and by June 1 every year through 2020, regarding the current and future military power of the Russian Federation. This shall address current and probably future course of military-technological development of the Russian military. Additionally, the report shall include an assessment of the security situation in regions neighboring Russia, the goals and factors shaping the security strategy and military strategy of Russia, trends in Russian security and military behavior, and other details.

**Additional Information on the Economic Support Fund:** According to the State Department, the Economic Support Fund (ESF) “promotes the economic and political foreign policy interests of the United States by providing assistance to allies and countries in transition to democracy, supporting the Middle East peace negotiations, and financing economic stabilization programs, frequently in a multi-donor context.” The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) implements most ESF-funded programs.

The ESF *primarily* provides countries with grants in order to fund a broad range of activities including education, rural development, transportation, or good governance programs. ESF allocations are to reflect strategic priorities, while Development Assistance (DA) funds are prioritized to the poorest people and poorest countries. ESF grants cannot be used for military assistance.

Funds from the ESF can also be used to back direct loans. In this case, the ESF does not make the loan but an amount of ESF funding would be deposited into the Treasury. In the event that the borrower (Ukraine) defaults, the ESF funding would be used to guarantee the loan.

Ukraine has had two failed International Monetary Fund programs since 2008. An ex-post evaluation contends program was appropriately designed, but failed because of “insufficient ownership” on the part of Ukrainian authorities.

**Highlights of the Administration’s FY 2015 ESF Request:** The Administration requested \$5.077 billion for FY 2015. This breaks down to a request of \$3.398 billion in enduring funds, and \$1.678 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations.

The request includes \$200 million for Egypt, \$370 million for the West Bank and Gaza, \$100 million for Pakistan, \$20 million for Cuba, and several other countries. The Administration’s request for FY 2015 can be found starting on [page 86 of this document](#). Total funding for FY 2014 was \$4.589 billion, and funding for FY 2013 was \$5.867 billion.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 4152 was introduced on March 5, 2014 and was referred to the House Appropriations and Foreign Affairs Committees. Neither committee took action.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO report is unavailable.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** Yes. The legislation expands the list of countries eligible for assistance under the Economic Support Fund.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** The legislation does not contain earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits.

**Constitutional Authority:** Rep. Rogers states “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: ‘No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . . .’ In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: ‘The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . . .’ Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.” The statement can be [found here](#).

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## **S. 2183 - United States International Programming to Ukraine and Neighboring Regions (McConnell, R-KY)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on April 1, 2014, under a motion to suspend the rule and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds vote for passage.

**Summary:** The legislation directs a programming surge from Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), Incorporated, and the Voice of America, to Ukraine and neighboring regions. This shall be prioritized to eastern Ukraine and Moldova, and to ethnic and linguistic Russian populations, as well as to Tatar minorities. Programming shall run 24 hours a day, seven days a week to these populations.

The legislation authorizes \$10,000,000 for FY 2014 to carry out Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) programming in the Ukrainian, Balkan, Russian, and Tatar language services for the purpose of bolstering existing United States programming to the people of Ukraine and neighboring regions. Within 15 days of enactment, the Broadcasting Board of Governors shall submit a report to Congress on plans to increase these broadcasts.

**Additional Information:** Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's FY 2012 budget was \$95,200,000. More information can be [found here](#).

**Committee Action:** S. 2183 was introduced on March 27, 2014. The legislation passed the Senate on March 27, 2014, by unanimous consent.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO report is unavailable.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:**

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** The legislation does not contain earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits.

**Constitutional Authority:** Senate rules do not require a statement of constitutional authority to accompany legislation when introduced.

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## **H. Con. Res. 88 — Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby (Hoyer, D-MD)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on April 1, 2014, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

**Summary:** H. Con. Res. 88 authorizes the [Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association](#) to sponsor the soap box derby races on the Capitol Grounds, on June 14, 2014, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate.

The Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association will assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities associated with the event. The event will be free of admission charge and open to the public. Additionally, the event is to be arranged so that it does not interfere with the needs of Congress. The resolution authorizes the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association to erect a stage and sound amplification system on the Capitol Grounds.

**Additional Background:** The event features Stock Division, Super Stock division, and Masters division races. Soap box racing has been featured in Washington [since 1938](#).

**Committee Action:** H. Con. Res. 88 was introduced on February 25, 2014, and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The T&I Committee [marked up and approved](#) H. Con. Res. 88 by voice vote on March 13, 2014. The Committee Report can be read [here](#).

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The [CBO report](#) states that “Because the association would assume responsibility for all expenses and liabilities associated with the event, CBO estimates that passage of H. Con. Res. 88 would result in no significant cost to the federal government.”

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any Federal Encroachment into State or Local Authority in Potential Violation of the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment?:** No.

**Does the Bill Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** House Rules do not require statement of constitutional authority for House resolutions.

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## **H. Con. Res. 92 — Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition. (Barletta, R-PA)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on April 1, 2014, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

**Summary:** H. Con. Res. 92 authorizes the Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police to sponsor the 33rd Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service on the Capitol Grounds. This service will be held on May 15, 2015, and will honor law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty during 2013.

The Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police will assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities associated with the event. The event will be free of admission charge and open to the public. Additionally, the event is to be arranged so that it does not interfere with the needs of Congress.

The resolution authorizes the Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police to erect a stage and sound amplification system on the Capitol Grounds, subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol.

**Additional Background:** Police Officers from around the country will converge on Washington, D.C. the week of May 15<sup>th</sup> for [Police Week](#) events to honor the more than [100 fallen officers](#) who gave their lives in the line of duty. President Kennedy signed a proclamation in 1962 designating May 15<sup>th</sup> as the Peace Officers' Memorial Day.

**Committee Action:** H. Con. Res. 92 was introduced on April 11, 2014, and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The T&I Committee [marked up and approved](#) H. Con. Res. 88 by voice vote on March 13, 2014. The Committee Report can be read [here](#).

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The [CBO report](#) states that “Because the sponsors would assume responsibility for all expenses and liabilities associated with the events, CBO estimates that passage of H. Con. Res. 92 would result in no significant cost to the federal government.”

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any Federal Encroachment into State or Local Authority in Potential Violation of the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment?:** No.

**Does the Bill Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** o.

**Constitutional Authority:** House Rules do not require statement of constitutional authority for House resolutions.

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## **H.R. 4005 — Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014 (Hunter, R-CA)**

**Order of Business:** The legislation is scheduled to be considered on April 1, 2014, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

**Summary:** H.R. 4005 authorizes \$8.7 billion in discretionary funding for the Coast Guard in both 2015 and 2016. This authorization is equal to current authorized levels.

*Personnel:* The legislation authorizes an end-of-year strength of 43,000 active duty military personnel in 2015 and 2016. The current authorized strength is 47,000, but the actual strength at the end of the fiscal year is projected to be 42,600. The legislation authorizes 6,700 commissioned officers. H.R. 4005 further supports pay increases consistent with those of the other Armed Forces. The legislation expands the funds available for construction and renovation of servicemember housing.

*Jurisdictional determinations:* The Coast Guard would be required to undertake rulemaking when determining that a particular waterway is within its jurisdiction.

*Medal of Honor:* The legislation repeals the limitation placed on Coast Guard servicemembers from being able to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

*Mission Needs Statement:* The Coast Guard would be required to submit a Mission Needs Statement to the Congress.

*Authorization Request:* The Coast Guard would be required to submit to Congress an authorization request each year, as the Department of Defense currently does.

*Active Duty for Emergencies:* Currently, the Secretary of Homeland Security may call Coast Guard reservists to active duty for not more than 60 days in any four month period to respond to an emergency. The legislation would eliminate this limitation.

*Icebreakers:* The legislation requires a report to Congress on maintaining current polar icebreaking capabilities, including the cost effectiveness of acquiring new icebreakers. The Coast Guard is prohibited from paying for new Polar Class icebreaker capabilities that are requested by other federal agencies.

*Cutters:* The Coast Guard is authorized to enter into a multiyear contract for procurement of the Offshore Patrol Cutter. The Coast Guard must also provide a plan to decommission 210 foot Medium Endurance Cutters and to extend the life of 270 foot Medium Endurance Cutters.

*Eliminating duplicative reports:* The legislation eliminates five annual duplicative reports that the Coast Guard is currently required to submit to Congress.

*International Ice Patrol Reform:* Under the International Convention on the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), the United States is supposed to be reimbursed for the Coast Guard's iceberg tracking activities in the North Atlantic by countries that have foreign flagged ships in the area. However, we have not been reimbursed since at least 2000. In the last five fiscal years, the Coast Guard has spent \$41 million on these activities. H.R. 4005 would prohibit unreimbursed ice patrols. The legislation would authorize unreimbursed patrols, if the President determines that it is in the interest of national defense.

*Small Shipyards:* The legislation reauthorizes the Assistance to Small Shipyards program, which provides grants to small privately owned shipyards.

*Recourse for Noncitizens:* The legislation clarifies that foreign citizens may file a personal injury lawsuit in U.S. court only if the accident occurred in U.S. waters, on a U.S. vessel, or the claimant is a permanent resident alien and does not have the right to bring suit in his country of residence to the flag state of the vessel on which the claim arose.

*Crediting time in the Sea Services:* The legislation loosens restrictions that present a hardship for some retiring Navy and Coast Guard servicemembers that want to serve as officers on commercial vessels.

*Federal Maritime Commission:* The legislation authorizes \$24.7 in both 2015 and 2016 for the Federal Maritime Commission.

*Commercial Discharge Reform:* The legislation exempts commercial vessels less than 79 feet without ballast tanks from EPA regulations requiring permits for incidental discharges.

*Maritime Strategy:* The Maritime Administration is required to produce a strategy to reduce the regulatory burdens on U.S. flagged vessels.

**Additional Background:** The Coast Guard is currently authorized through the end of fiscal year 2014. You can read about the most recent authorization [here](#).

Note: The legislation was renamed in honor of [Representative Howard Coble](#) (R-NC) by an amendment offered by Chairman Shuster during markup that was approved by a voice vote. [Coble](#), who announced that he will retire at the end of this session after 15 terms, served for more than 27 years in the Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Reserve.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 4005 was introduced on February 6, 2014, and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The T&I Committee [marked up and approved](#)



the bill, as amended, by voice vote on February 11, 2014. The Committee report can be read [here](#).

**Administration Position:** Not available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The [CBO report](#) states that, assuming appropriation of the specified amounts, H.R. 4005 would cost \$16.8 billion in outlays over the 2015-2019 period.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No, according to the CBO report.

**Does the Bill Contain Any Federal Encroachment into State or Local Authority in Potential Violation of the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment?:** No.

**Does the Bill Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** No, according to the Committee Report.

**Constitutional Authority:** “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.”

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***S. 1557 - Children’s Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2013—  
(Casey, D-PA)***

**Order of Business:** [S. 1557](#) is scheduled to be considered on April 1, 2014, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

**Summary:** This bill reauthorizes the federal funding for graduate medical education in children’s hospitals for five years. It funds direct medical education at \$100,000,000 and indirect medical education at \$200,000,000 for fiscal years 2014-2018.

In addition, it authorizes the Secretary to make available up to 25 percent of the total amounts in excess of specified appropriations for payments to certain hospitals and establish a quality bonus system that meets standards specified by the Secretary.

**Major Changes Since the Last Time This Legislation was Before the House:** [H.R. 297](#), Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2013, passed the House with a vote of [352-50](#) on February 4, 2013.

The House passed version was slightly different as it reauthorized funding through fiscal 2017 at FY 2011 levels of \$330,000,000 each year. Read the RSC Legislative Bulletin for H.R. 297 [here](#).

**Additional Background:** As part of the Healthcare Research and Quality Act in 1999, Congress created the Children’s Hospital Graduate Medical Education Program (CHGME) to provide federal support to children’s hospitals for direct and indirect expenses associated with operating medical residency training programs. Direct expenses are associated with providing salaries of medical residency students. Indirect expenses are defined as costs intended to compensate hospitals for patient care costs that are expected to be higher in teaching hospitals than in non-teaching hospitals.

**Committee Action:** This bill was introduced by Senator Casey on September 27, 2013, and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions where it was reported out favorably without amendment. On November 12, 2013, it passed the Senate by unanimous consent.

**Administration Position:** No statement of administration position is available at this time.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** [CBO](#) estimates that implementing the bill would cost about \$1.4 billion over the 2014-2018 period, assuming the appropriation of the authorized amounts. Pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply to this legislation because it would not affect direct spending or revenues.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** S. 1557 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. Children’s hospitals that are operated by governmental entities could benefit from grant funds authorized by the bill for graduate medical training.

**Does the Bill Contain Any Federal Encroachment into State or Local Authority in Potential Violation of the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment?:** No.

**Does the Bill Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** Senate Rules do not require a statement of constitutional authority to accompany legislation upon introduction.

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## H.R. 2413 – Weather Forecasting Improvement Act (Bridenstine, R-OK)

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on April 1, 2014, under a motion to suspend the rule and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds vote for passage.

## **Summary:**

### **Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation:**

H.R. 2413 directs the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) to conduct a program to develop improved understanding and forecast capabilities for atmospheric events and their impacts. The OAR shall prioritize the development of more accurate, timely, and effective warnings and forecasts of high impact weather events. .

The legislation lists several elements that the program must focus on, including:

- Improving the understanding of how the public receives, interprets, and responds to warnings and forecasts of high impact weather events that endanger life and property.
- A technology transfer initiative, carried out jointly and in coordination with the Assistant Administrator for National Weather Service (NWS) and in cooperation with the American weather industry and academic partners, to ensure continuous development and transition of the latest scientific and technological advances into NWS operations.

### **Tornado Warning Improvement and Extension Program:**

The legislation directs the Under Secretary to establish a tornado warning improvement and extension pilot program. The goal of the program is to reduce the loss of life and economic losses from tornadoes through the development and extension of accurate, effective, and timely tornado forecasts, including the prediction of tornadoes beyond one hour in advance. Within six months after enactment, the Assistant Administrator for OAR shall develop a program plan that details the specific research, development, and technology transfer activities necessary to achieve the program goal.

### **Weather Research and Development Planning:**

Within six months of enactment, and annually thereafter, the OAR shall issue a research and development plan to restore and maintain U.S. leadership in numerical weather prediction and forecasting that describes the identifies and prioritizes specific research and development activities, and performance metrics, weighted to meet the operational weather mission of NWS. The plan shall also identify research necessary to enhance the integration of social science knowledge into weather forecast and warning processes, including to improve the communication of threat information necessary to enable improved severe weather planning and decision making on the part of individuals and communities.

### **Computing Resources Prioritization Report:**

Within one year after enactment, and annually thereafter, the NOAA Chief Information Officer, shall produce a report that explains how NOAA intends to:

- aggressively pursue the newest, fastest, and most cost effective high performance computing technologies in support of its weather prediction mission;

- ensure a balance between the research requirements to develop the next generation of regional and global models and its highly reliable operational models;
- take advantage of advanced development concepts to, as appropriate, make its next generation weather prediction models available in beta-test mode to its operational forecasters, the American weather industry, and its partners in academic and government research.

### **Commercial Weather Data:**

Current law prohibits the President, and other government officials, from making efforts to lease, sell, or transfer to the private sector, or commercialize, any portion of the weather satellite systems operated by the Department of Commerce or any successor agency. This legislation makes an exception that allows the purchase of weather data through contracts with commercial providers to occur. Additionally, the placement of weather satellite instruments on cohosted government or private payloads is allowed.

### **Weather Research and Innovation Advisory Committee:**

The legislation establishes a Federal Advisory Committee to provide advice for prioritizing weather research initiatives at NOAA. This Committee shall also identify opportunities to improve communications between weather forecasters, emergency management personnel, and the public.

### **Interagency Weather Research and Innovation Coordination:**

The legislation establishes an Interagency Committee for Advancing Weather Services to improve coordination of relevant weather research and forecast innovation activities across the federal government. This Committee shall identify and prioritize top forecast needs and coordinate those needs against budget requests. They shall also share information regarding operational needs and forecasting improvements across relevant agencies.

### **Hurricane Warning Improvement Program:**

The legislation directs the Secretary to establish a hurricane warning improvement program. The goal of this program is to develop and extend accurate hurricane forecasts and warnings in order to reduce loss of life, injury, and damage to the economy. Within six months of enactment, the OAR shall develop a program plan that details the specific research, development, and technology transfer activities necessary to achieve these goals.

### **Authorization of Appropriations:**

The legislation authorizes for appropriations \$83,000,000 for fiscal year 2014 to carry out the act. Of this amount, \$65,000,000 is authorized for weather laboratories and \$18,000,000 is authorized for weather and air chemistry research programs. Of funds available for research and development in the National Weather Service, the legislation authorized an additional amount of \$14,000,000 for the OAR joint technology transfer initiative.

In the event that the Budget Control Act of 2011 (P.L. 112-25) is repealed or replaced, the legislation authorizes for appropriations \$95,500,000 for fiscal year 2014 to carry out the act. Of this amount, \$77,500,000 is authorized for weather laboratories and \$19,000,000 is authorized for weather and air chemistry research programs.

For fiscal years 2015 through 2017, the legislation authorizes \$100,000,000 to carry out the legislation. Of this amount, \$80,000,000 is authorized for weather laboratories and \$20,000,000 is authorized for weather and air chemistry research programs. An additional amount of \$20,000,000 shall be appropriated to carry out the technology transfer initiative.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 2413 was introduced on June 18, 2013, and was referred House Science, Space, and Technology Subcommittee on Environment. The subcommittee held a [markup](#) on July 9, 2013, and passed the legislation by voice vote, as amendment. The full committee held a [markup](#) on December 11, 2013, and passed the legislation, by voice vote, as amended.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$356 million over the 2015-2019 period. CBO's report can be [viewed here](#).

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:**

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** CBO states that H.R. 2413 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.

**Does the Bill Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** The legislation does not contain earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits.

**Constitutional Authority:** Rep. Bridenstine states "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18." The statement can be [found here](#).

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***NOTE:*** *RSC Legislative Bulletins are for informational purposes only and should not be taken as statements of support or opposition from the Republican Study Committee.*