



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 12, 2016

S. 1886 **Coordinated Ocean Monitoring and Research Act**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
on December 9, 2015*

SUMMARY

S. 1886 would reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act. The bill also would modify existing reporting and planning requirements under the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act. Based on information provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), CBO estimates that implementing S. 1886 would cost \$91 million over the 2017-2021 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting the legislation would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

S. 1886 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 effect of S. 1886 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					2017- 2021
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Ocean Monitoring						
Estimated Authorization Level	30	30	30	0	0	90
Estimated Outlays	20	26	29	11	4	90
Reporting and Planning						
Estimated Authorization Level	*	*	*	*	*	1
Estimated Outlays	*	*	*	*	*	1
Total Increases						
Authorization Level	30	30	30	0	0	91
Estimated Outlays	20	26	29	11	4	91

Note: * = less than \$500,000; components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2016 and that the necessary amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year.

S. 1886 would authorize the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary for each year through 2019 to carry out activities under the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act. That act requires the federal government to monitor ocean characteristics and other activities, including weather forecasting, water quality assessment, and shipping operations. Over the 2012-2016 period, the agency spent an average of \$30 million a year to carry out those activities. On that historical basis, CBO estimates that carrying out similar activities in the future would cost \$90 million over the 2017-2021 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

The bill also would require an interagency body to complete a report identifying potential dangers to coastal communities from changes in the acidification of sea water and to develop a strategic plan to research and monitor ocean acidification. Based on information provided by NOAA, CBO estimates that carrying out those activities would cost roughly \$1 million over the 2017-2021 period, assuming availability of appropriated funds.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INCREASE IN LONG-TERM DIRECT SPENDING AND DEFICITS

CBO estimates that enacting S. 1886 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 1886 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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