



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 1, 2016

S. 3059

Marine Mammal Research and Response Act of 2016

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
on June 29, 2016*

SUMMARY

S. 3059 would reauthorize and amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$10 million annually over the 2017-2021 period for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to carry out activities to improve marine mammal research and improve responses to emergency events involving marine mammals.

CBO estimates that implementing S. 3059 would cost \$37 million over the 2017-2021 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. Enacting S. 3059 could affect direct spending; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. However, CBO estimates that the net effect on the budget would be negligible. Enacting S. 3059 would not affect revenues.

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. 3059 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. 3059 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						
Authorization Level	10	10	10	10	10	50
Estimated Outlays	6	7	8	8	8	37

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes S. 3059 will be enacted near the start of 2017 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year.

S. 3059 would authorize the appropriation of \$8 million annually over the 2017-2021 period for NOAA, in coordination with the Department of the Interior, to carry out the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue and Response Program. That program makes grants to specific public and private entities for the purposes of rescuing and rehabilitating marine mammals that are stranded on land. (In 2016, NOAA allocated \$3 million for such grants.)

In addition, the bill would authorize appropriations totaling about \$2 million annually over the 2017-2021 period for NOAA to archive selected marine mammal tissues, compensate individuals who respond to emergencies involving large and unexpected die-offs in marine mammal populations, create and maintain a publicly accessible national system to monitor marine mammal health, and comply with other administrative requirements.

Based on historical spending patterns for NOAA’s activities, CBO estimates that implementing S. 3059 would cost \$37 million over the 2017-2021 period.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS

The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 establishes budget-reporting and enforcement procedures for legislation affecting direct spending and revenues. S. 3059 would allow NOAA to accept and spend, without further appropriation, monetary gifts to assist in implementing a marine mammal health system. Such gifts would be recorded as offsetting receipts, which are treated as reductions in direct spending. Because CBO expects that monetary gifts would be spent soon after they are received, we estimate that the net change in direct spending would be negligible. Enacting S. 3059 would not affect revenues.

INCREASE IN LONG-TERM DIRECT SPENDING AND DEFICITS

CBO estimates that enacting S. 3059 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. 3059 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. By expanding federal grant programs that support research and response activities involving stranded or deceased marine mammals, the bill would benefit public entities involved in those activities. Any costs, including matching contributions, incurred by public entities under agreements with NOAA would result from participation in voluntary federal programs.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Robert Reese

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Jon Sperl

Impact on the Private Sector: Amy Petz

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

H. Samuel Papenfuss

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis