



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 11, 2016

S. 3086

Marine Debris Act Amendments of 2016

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

SUMMARY

S. 3086 would reauthorize and amend the Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$10 million annually over the 2017-2021 period for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), in coordination with other agencies, to carry out activities to reduce the amount of debris in oceans and coastal areas and \$2 million annually for the Coast Guard (USCG) to better enforce laws about discarded refuse from ships.

CBO estimates that implementing S. 3086 would cost \$46 million over the 2017-2021 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. Pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply because enacting S. 3086 would not affect direct spending or 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. 3086 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. 3086 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						
Marine Debris Removal						
Authorization Level	10	10	10	10	10	50
Estimated Outlays	2	7	9	10	10	38
Enhanced Enforcement						
Authorization Level	2	2	2	2	2	10
Estimated Outlays	1	1	2	2	2	8
Total Costs						
Authorization Level	12	12	12	12	12	60
Estimated Outlays	3	8	11	12	12	46

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes S. 3086 will be enacted near the start of 2017 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar programs.

The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$10 million annually over the 2017- 2021 period for NOAA, in coordination with other agencies, to carry out activities to reduce the amount of debris in oceans and coastal areas (such as plastic and lost fishing gear) and to maintain a clearinghouse of information on marine debris for research purposes. In 2015, NOAA allocated \$6 million to activities that would reduce marine debris. The bill also would authorize the appropriation of \$2 million annually over the 2017-2021 period for the USCG to improve enforcement of existing laws and treaties that address ocean pollution from ships as well as develop and implement a plan to improve waste management on ships.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None

INCREASE IN LONG-TERM DIRECT SPENDING AND DEFICITS

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.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 3086 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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