



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 8, 2014

### **S. 2030**

#### **National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2014**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
on July 23, 2014*

#### **SUMMARY**

S. 2030 would authorize appropriations totaling \$526 million over the 2015-2020 period for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to carry out the National Sea Grant College Program, which funds scientific research, education, and public outreach related to marine issues at certain universities. In addition, the program would provide funds for marine policy fellowships.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$379 million over the 2015-2019 period and \$147 million after 2019. Because enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

S. 2030 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. The bill would benefit public universities by reauthorizing the national sea grant college program. Any costs incurred by state, local, or tribal governments, including matching funds, would result from complying with a voluntary federal program.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 2030 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					2015- 2019
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Sea Grant Program						
Authorization Level	72	76	79	83	88	398
Estimated Outlays	47	64	75	81	85	352
Sea Grant Priority Grants						
Authorization Level	6	6	6	6	6	30
Estimated Outlays	4	5	6	6	6	27
Total Changes						
Authorization Level	78	82	85	89	94	428
Estimated Outlays	51	69	81	87	91	379

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 2030 will be enacted by the end of fiscal year 2014, that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each year, and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for similar NOAA activities.

S. 2030 would amend and reauthorize the National Sea Grant College Program Act. The bill would authorize appropriations totaling \$490 million over the 2015-2020 period to fund activities at a network of 33 Sea Grant programs located at universities in every coastal and Great Lakes state, Vermont, Puerto Rico, and Guam. Those funds would also be used to provide fellowships that support the placement of graduate students studying ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources within the executive and legislative branches of the United States government. In 2014, NOAA received appropriations totaling \$63 million to fund similar activities. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing those provisions would cost \$352 million over the 2015-2019 period and \$138 million after 2019.

The bill also would authorize the appropriation of \$6 million a year to fund competitive grants that would fund high-priority research activities at universities. Those activities would include the prevention and control of nonnative aquatic species, the development of sustainable aquaculture techniques, and the prevention and forecasting of harmful algal blooms. NOAA received an appropriation of \$4 million to fund similar activities in 2014. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing these provisions would cost \$27 million over the 2015-2019 period and \$9 million after 2019.

**PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

S. 2030 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA, and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The bill would benefit public universities by reauthorizing the national sea grant college program. Any costs incurred by state, local, or tribal governments, including matching funds, would result from complying with a voluntary federal program.

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