



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 29, 2017

S. 1425 **Coordinated Ocean Monitoring and Research Act**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
on August 2, 2017*

SUMMARY

S. 1425 would reauthorize and amend 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. 1425 would cost \$71 million over the 2018-2022 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

Enacting S. 1425 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. CBO estimates that enacting the bill would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

S. 1425 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. 1425 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- 2022
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Ocean Monitoring							
Estimated Authorization Level	0	35	35	0	0	0	70
Estimated Outlays	0	23	30	11	5	1	70
Reporting and Planning							
Estimated Authorization Level	0	*	*	*	*	*	1
Estimated Outlays	0	*	*	*	*	*	1
Total Increases							
Authorization Level	0	35	35	*	*	*	71
Estimated	0	23	30	11	5	1	71

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

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 1425 will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2017, that the necessary amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year, and that spending will follow historical patterns for similar programs.

Ocean Monitoring

S. 1425 would authorize the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary for 2018 and 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 perform other activities, including weather forecasting, making water quality assessments, and monitoring shipping operations. Over the 2013-2017 period, the agency received an average appropriation of \$35 million a year to carry out those activities. On the basis of that historical information, CBO estimates that carrying out similar activities in the future would cost \$70 million over the 2018-2022 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

Reporting and Planning

The bill also would require an interagency body to complete a report identifying potential dangers to coastal communities from changes in the acidification (decline in the pH value) 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 2018-2022 period, assuming the availability of appropriated funds.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INCREASE IN LONG-TERM DIRECT SPENDING AND DEFICITS

CBO estimates that enacting S. 1425 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 1425 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would benefit state and local agencies, as well as other public entities, by authorizing funds for ocean observation and research activities. Any costs incurred by those entities, including cost-sharing contributions, would result from participation in a voluntary federal program.

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