



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 12, 2017

S. 826 WILD Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
on April 5, 2017*

SUMMARY

S. 826 would amend and reauthorize various programs conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) related to the conservation of wildlife. The bill also would require various agencies to carry out certain activities to manage invasive species. Finally, the bill would establish prize competitions to promote the development of strategies to enhance wildlife conservation.

Based on information from the affected agencies, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$607 million over the 2018-2022 period and \$46 million after 2022, assuming appropriation of the authorized and necessary amounts. Enacting S. 826 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting S. 826 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

S. 826 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 impact of S. 826 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	
INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION							
Partners for Fish and Wildlife							
Authorization Level	0	100	100	100	100	100	500
Estimated Outlays	0	77	92	96	99	100	464
Species Conservation Programs							
Authorization Level	0	30	30	30	30	30	150
Estimated Outlays	0	23	28	29	30	30	140
Prize Competitions							
Estimated Authorization Level	0	1	1	1	1	1	3
Estimated Outlays	0	1	1	1	1	1	3
Total Increases							
Estimated Authorization Level	0	131	131	131	131	131	653
Estimated Outlays	0	101	120	125	130	131	607

Note: 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 2017 and that the authorized and necessary amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar programs.

Title I would authorize the appropriation of \$100 million a year over the 2018-2022 period to fund the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program. Under the program, the USFWS provides technical assistance and cost-share incentives to private landowners to restore fish and wildlife habitats. In 2017, the USFWS received appropriations totaling \$52 million to carry out that program. Based on information provided by the agency, CBO estimates that carrying out title I would cost \$464 million over the 2018-2022 period and \$36 million after 2022.

Title III would authorize the appropriation of \$30 million a year over the 2018-2022 period to carry out programs aimed at conserving various species including elephants, rhinoceros, tigers, great apes, and marine turtles. In 2017, the USFWS received appropriations totaling \$11 million to carry out those programs. Based on information provided by the agency, CBO estimates that carrying out title III would cost \$140 million over the 2018-2022 period and \$10 million after 2022.

Title IV would require USFWS to establish five annual prize competitions to reward individuals who advance efforts related to wildlife conservation. Under the bill, the agency would award each prize winner \$100,000 in cash. Based on information provided by USFWS, CBO estimates that administering the prize competitions would cost about \$3 million over the 2018-2022 period.

Title II would require the Army Corps of Engineers and agencies within the Department of the Interior to carry out activities to control and manage invasive species. Because the affected agencies are already meeting most of the requirements under title II, we estimate that implementing that title would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2018-2022 period for planning and reporting activities required under the bill.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INCREASE IN LONG TERM DIRECT SPENDING AND DEFICITS

CBO estimates that enacting S. 826 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. 826 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. The bill would authorize federal assistance for state, local, and tribal governments to control invasive species and protect endangered species. Any costs incurred by those entities, under cooperative agreements with federal agencies or as cost-sharing contributions, would result from conditions of federal assistance.

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