

H.R. 2405, National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2019

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on September 18, 2019

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2020	2020-2024	2020-2029
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	55	446	631
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

The National Sea Grant College Program is a partnership between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and 33 university-based programs that focuses on studying, conserving, and effectively using U.S. coastal resources. H.R. 2405 would amend the program and would authorize appropriations totaling \$631 million over the 2020-2025 period for NOAA to implement that program. The bill would restrict the use of funds allocated to the program’s policy fellowship, reduce the frequency of reports to the Congress, and streamline the process for federal agencies to hire former recipients of a Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship.

Based on historical spending patterns and assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$631 million over the 2020-2029 period. In 2019, NOAA allocated \$80 million to the program. The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under H.R. 2405

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars										2020-2024	2020-2029
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029		
Authorization	94	98	103	107	112	118	0	0	0	0	514	631
Estimated Outlays	55	80	97	104	109	115	47	20	3	0	446	631

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.



On May 2, 2019, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 910, the National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2019, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on April 3, 2019. The differences in CBO's estimated costs for the two pieces of legislation reflect differences in the amounts each bill would authorize to be appropriated.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Robert Reese. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.