

S. 2372, Save Our Seas 2.0: Enhanced Global Engagement to Combat Marine Debris Act

As reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on September 26, 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)	*	48	not estimated
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

* = between zero and \$500,000.

S. 2372 would require the Department of State, in conjunction with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), to coordinate the federal government’s efforts to reduce pollution from solid materials such as plastics in the world’s oceans. Such pollutants are called marine debris. Several federal agencies, including the department, USAID, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) encourage foreign countries and international organizations to reduce marine debris and implement waste management, recycling, and public-education programs in those countries.

The bill would require federal agencies to focus their efforts on rapidly developing countries and riverine and coastal areas that are major sources of debris. Agencies also would be required to measure the success of those efforts against tangible targets. Using information from several federal agencies about their ongoing efforts, CBO expects that some of the bill’s requirements would be met through existing programs.

USAID and the Department of State have provided international assistance of roughly \$10 million each year to reduce marine debris, primarily in Asia. CBO estimates that replicating those efforts in Latin American and African countries would require additional appropriations of \$20 million annually and cost \$46 million over the 2020-2024 period.

In addition, CBO estimates that it would cost less than \$500,000 each year and a total of \$2 million for the EPA to expand its current programs to meet the bill’s requirements.

Finally, S. 2372 would require the Department of State to report to the Congress on the potential for establishing new international agreements to reduce marine debris. On the basis of information about the department’s costs to prepare similar reports, CBO estimates that satisfying that requirement would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2020-2024 period.

In total, CBO estimates that expanding current efforts and developing new programs to implement the bill would cost \$48 million over the 2020-2024 period (see Table 1). Such spending would be subject to the appropriation of the estimated amounts.

Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under S. 2372

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars					2020-2024
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Estimated Authorization	20	20	20	20	20	102
Estimated Outlays	*	3	11	15	17	48

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

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Sunita D’Monte. The estimate was reviewed by Leo Lex, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.