

S. 318, Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on March 22, 2023

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2023	2023-2028	2023-2033
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	*	*
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	7	not estimated
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2034?	No	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Yes
		Mandate Effects	
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2034?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

S. 318 would authorize appropriations for the Marine Debris Foundation that would match the contributions it receives from foreign governments and from tribal, regional, and nongovernmental organizations. (That nonprofit charitable foundation supports efforts to remove plastics, discarded fishing gear, rubber, and other harmful materials from the marine environment.) The bill also would authorize the foundation to use the federal matching funds to pay its employees for two years. Under current law, the foundation receives federal matching funds only for contributions from private individuals and state or local governments.

The foundation is permitted to fund operations using donations from nonfederal sources until its authority terminates in 2030. It also is authorized to invest appropriated funds in Treasury securities and to spend any credited interest without further appropriation.

CBO estimates that the foundation will receive contributions of \$12 million from nonfederal entities over the 2024-2028 period, with about half of that amount coming from entities not eligible for matching under current law. The extent to which those entities would contribute to the foundation under S. 318 is uncertain. Collections could be higher or lower than CBO estimates.

See also

[CBO's Cost Estimates Explained](#), [CBO Describes Its Cost-Estimating Process](#), [Glossary](#)



Using research results concerning the effects of matching of charitable contributions, CBO expects that implementing S. 318 would increase donations from nonfederal entities by about 20 percent. Based on spending patterns for similar programs, CBO estimates that matching the additional contributions would cost \$7 million over the 2024-2028 period. Such spending would be subject to the appropriation of the estimated amounts.

The collection and spending of contributions as well as the spending of credited interest are classified in the budget as direct spending. CBO estimates that the net effect on direct spending from the additional contributions to the foundation would be insignificant over the 2024-2033 period because those collections would be spent quickly. CBO also expects that any interest earned would be insignificant.

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 S. 318**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2023-2028
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
Estimated Authorization	0	*	1	1	2	3	7
Estimated Outlays	0	*	1	1	2	3	7

* = between zero and \$500,000.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Aurora Swanson. The estimate was reviewed by Chad Chirico, Director of Budget Analysis.

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