

S. 1416, NWR Modernization Act of 2023

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on May 10, 2023

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2023	2023-2028	2023-2033
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	45	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?	No
		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

S. 1416 would direct the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to expand and modernize NOAA Weather Radio (NWR), a nationwide radio network that continuously broadcasts weather forecasts as well as warnings and post-event information for all types of hazards, including earthquakes and 911 outages. The bill would have NOAA expand NWR coverage to rural and underserved areas, national parks, and recreation areas. S.1416 also would direct the agency to modernize the NWR by using the Internet, accelerating software upgrades, and assessing and enhancing access to the NWR broadcasts.

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 1416 will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2023. In 2023, NOAA allocated \$10 million for NWR activities. Using information from the agency and based on historical spending patterns for similar activities, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1416 would cost \$45 million over the 2024-2028 period, assuming appropriation of the estimated amounts.

That amount consists of \$15 million to acquire and install new transmitters, and \$30 million to modernize the system, as described above. Those estimated costs incorporate the fact that some of those activities are happening under current law.

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. 1416**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2023-2028
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
Expand NWR Coverage							
Estimated Authorization	0	4	4	4	4	4	20
Estimated Outlays	0	1	3	3	4	4	15
Modernize NWR Infrastructure							
Estimated Authorization	0	8	8	8	8	8	40
Estimated Outlays	0	2	5	7	8	8	30
Total Changes							
Estimated Authorization	0	12	12	12	12	12	60
Estimated Outlays	0	3	8	10	12	12	45

NWR = National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio.

On June 9, 2023, CBO transmitted a [cost estimate for H.R. 1482](#), the NWR Modernization Act of 2023, as reported by the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology on May 16, 2023. The two bills are similar, and CBO’s estimates of their budgetary effects are the same.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Kelly Durand and Aurora Swanson. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

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