

S. 1414, National Weather Service Communications Improvement Act

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

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars		2024	2024-2028	2024-2033
Direct Spending (Outlays)		0	0	0
Revenues		0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit		0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)		2	11	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. 1414 would require the National Weather Service (NWS) to replace its current instant messaging system with an updated, cloud-based system. The NWS uses instant messages to share critical warning decisions and other types of significant weather information with public safety officials, emergency personnel, and the media. In 2022, NWS started to replace the instant messaging system and allocated \$3 million in 2023 to continue those activities.

Using information from the NWS and spending patterns for similar activities, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1414 would cost \$11 million over the 2024-2028 period; any spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

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. 1414

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars					2024-2028
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
Estimated Authorization	3	3	3	3	0	12
Estimated Outlays	2	2	3	3	1	11

See also

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



On May 11, 2023, CBO transmitted a [cost estimate for H.R. 1496](#), the National Weather Service Communications Improvement Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology on March 29, 2023. The two pieces of legislation are similar, and CBO's estimates of their budgetary effects are the same.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Aurora Swanson. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phillip L. Swagel'.

Phillip L. Swagel

Director, Congressional Budget Office