

**S. 654, Delaware River Basin Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2023**  
As reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on September 27, 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)  | 0    | 4   | 23        |
| 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        |
|  |      | <b>Mandate Effects</b>                    |           |
| 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. 654 would reauthorize the Delaware River Basin Conservation Program through fiscal year 2030. The bill also would add portions of Maryland to the definition of the Delaware River Basin and increase the federal cost-share for matching grants for small, rural, and disadvantaged communities that participate in the program.

Under the program, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) provides grants to state agencies and nonprofit partners for fish and wildlife habitat restoration and conservation, water quality and flow management projects, and recreational access to the Delaware River Basin. Under current law, areas defined as a part of the river basin include portions of the states of Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. The program’s most recent authorization expired at the end of fiscal year 2023. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act appropriated about \$5 million annually through 2026 for the program.

Using information from USFWS and accounting for anticipated inflation, CBO estimates that the agency would need approximately \$6 million a year from fiscal year 2027 through 2030 to carry out the program. Using historical spending patterns for the program, CBO estimates that implementing S. 654 would cost \$4 million over the 2024-2028 period and \$23 million over the 2024-2033 period, assuming appropriation of the estimated amounts.

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. 654**

|                         | By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | 2024-<br>2028 | 2024-<br>2033 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---------------|---------------|
|                         | 2024                                | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 | 2031 | 2032 | 2033 |               |               |
| Estimated Authorization | 0                                   | 0    | 0    | 6    | 6    | 6    | 6    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 12            | 24            |
| Estimated Outlays       | 0                                   | 0    | 0    | 1    | 3    | 5    | 5    | 5    | 3    | 1    | 4             | 23            |

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



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