

H.R. 4770, Chesapeake Bay Science, Education, and Ecosystem Enhancement Act of 2023

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on October 26, 2023

| By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars | 2024 | 2024-2029 | 2024-2034 |
|--|------|---|-----------|
| Direct Spending (Outlays) | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Revenues | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035? | 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 2035? | No | Contains intergovernmental mandate? | No |
| | | Contains private-sector mandate? | No |

H.R. 4770 would reauthorize existing programs within the Chesapeake Bay Office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). That office works on managing and restoring habitat and providing educational opportunities in the Chesapeake Bay area. In 2023, NOAA allocated about \$10 million to the office.

The bill also would authorize NOAA to enter into leases as necessary to carry out the office's programs. Because signing a lease agreement would commit NOAA to pay the lessor to use a property over multiple years and in advance of appropriations for those future years, CBO considers the costs associated with such a lease to be direct spending. Based on similar authority provided for other NOAA activities and the relatively narrow focus of the Chesapeake Bay Office, CBO expects NOAA would use this authority to enter into one 30-year lease for additional lab facilities at some point during the 2024-2033 period.

Using information from the General Services Administration on the costs of NOAA's current leases, CBO estimates that the lifetime cost of such a lease would be \$2 million; budget authority equal to that amount would be recorded in the year the authority is granted. Because CBO cannot predict when NOAA would enter into a lease agreement under the bill, we estimate there is an equal chance that the agreement is initiated in every year over the 2024-2034 period. On that basis, and using historical spending patterns for similar leases,

See also

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



CBO estimates that outlays for the additional lease would be less than \$500,000 in each year and total \$2 million over the 2024-2034 period.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Emma Uebelhor and 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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Phillip L. Swagel
Director, Congressional Budget Office