Congressional Budget Office
Cost Estimate

August 13, 2025

At a Glance

NASA Legislation

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on April 30, 2025

On April 30, 2025, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation ordered 17 bills to be reported. This document provides estimates for the 3 of those bills that would affect the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

CBO estimates that S. 606 would increase spending subject to appropriation by $18 million over the 2025-2030 period. S. 1081 and S. 1437 would each increase spending subject to appropriation by less than $500,000 over the 2025-2030 period, CBO estimates.

None of the bills would increase direct spending or revenues; thus, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that none of the bills would increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036.

None of the bills contain intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

Bill	Net Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit Over the 2025-2035 Period (Millions of Dollars)	Changes in Spending Subject to Appropriation Over the 2025-2030 Period (Outlays, Millions of Dollars)	Mandate Effects?
S. 606	0	18	No
S. 1081	0	*	No
S. 1437	0	*	No

* = between zero and $500,000.

Detailed estimate begins on the next page.

See also
CBO's Cost Estimates Explained, *CBO Describes Its Cost-Estimating Process*, *Glossary*

Summary of Legislation

On April 30, 2025, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation ordered 17 bills to be reported. This document provides estimates for 3 of those bills, specified below:

- S. 606 would allow the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to enter into an agreement to reimburse the Town of Chincoteague, Virginia, for relocating wells for drinking water from NASA-administered property to the town.
- S. 1081 would expand NASA's requirements for reporting to the Congress.
- S. 1437 would require NASA to establish a program to collect and disseminate remote-sensing data and to report to the Congress on that program.

Estimated Federal Cost

The costs of the legislation fall within budget function 250 (general science, space, and technology).

Basis of Estimate

For this estimate, CBO assumes that each bill will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2025 and that the estimated amounts will be available each year. This cost estimate does not include any effects of interactions among the bills. If all three bills were combined and enacted as a single piece of legislation, the effects could be different from the sum of the separate estimates, although CBO expects that any differences would be small.

S. 606, the Contaminated Wells Relocation Act, would authorize the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to enter into an agreement with the Town of Chincoteague, Virginia, to reimburse the costs of removing and relocating three wells for drinking water that are currently located on property administered by NASA. The bill would require NASA to submit the agreement to the Congress within 18 months of enactment. Using information from the agency on the historical cost for similar activities and adjusting for inflation, CBO estimates that the agreement would cost $18 million over the 2025-2030 period. Any related spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

S. 1081, the Comprehensive NASA Reporting Act of 2025, would require the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to provide the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology with copies of any final reports or notifications that it submits to any other Congressional committee or office within 10 days of the original submission. The bill also would require NASA to provide to the Congress a copy of any international agreement involving outer space activities within 15 days of the United States becoming a signatory to that agreement.

Based on the cost of similar activities, CBO estimates that implementing the bill's reporting requirements would cost less than $500,000 over the 2025-2030 period. Any related spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

S. 1437, the ASCEND Act, would codify the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Commercial SmallSat Data Acquisition pilot program, which identifies commercial sources for acquiring remote-sensing data and imagery of the Earth. Data collected would be disseminated internally, to other federal agencies, and to researchers. The bill would require NASA to report to the Congress within 180 days of enactment and annually thereafter on all agreements established under the program. Based on the cost of similar activities, CBO estimates that implementing the bill's reporting requirements would cost less than $500,000 over the 2025-2030 period. Any related spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Pay-As-You-Go Considerations

The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 establishes budget-reporting and enforcement procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or revenues. None of the bills would affect direct spending or revenues; thus, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

Increase in Long-Term Net Direct Spending and Deficits

CBO estimates that enacting S. 606, S. 1081, and S. 1437 would not increase net direct spending or deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036.

Mandates

None of the bills contain intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

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