

S. 1278, Fog Observations and Geographic Forecasting Act

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

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2025	2025-2030	2025-2035
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	67	not estimated
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036?	No	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply? No	
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036?	No	Mandate Effects	
		Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

S. 1278 would require the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to develop and implement a project to improve forecasts of coastal marine fog. The project would involve collecting data from commercial sources, meteorological stations, drifting instruments, and satellites at marine locations affected by fog-related low visibility. The bill also would require NOAA to improve the dissemination of marine fog advisories to better inform the public about economic and safety risks.

Using information from NOAA, CBO estimates the following costs for the project:

- **Development**—\$3 million in 2026 to perform an assessment of the current system; consult with experts, tribes, and other interested parties; and assess modeling and weather dissemination systems.
- **Implementation**—\$19 million in 2027 for upfront costs to expand NOAA’s data collection capabilities and procure the necessary technical equipment.
- **Ongoing Annual Costs**—Beginning in mid-2027, \$16 million annually for ongoing costs, including \$3 million for system and infrastructure maintenance, \$10 million for computing capacity, and \$3 million for 11 full-time employees (at an average annual cost of \$250,000 each). Those estimated costs account for anticipated inflation each year.

See also

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



CBO assumes that S. 1278 will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2025 and that the estimated amounts will be available in each year. Based on historical spending patterns for similar activities, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$67 million over the 2025-2030 period.

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. 1278							
	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2025-2030
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	
Estimated Authorization	0	3	27	16	16	16	78
Estimated Outlays	0	2	17	16	16	16	67

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

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