

H.R. 2768, Benton MacKaye National Scenic Trail Feasibility Study Act of 2026

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on March 5, 2026

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2026	2026-2031	2026-2036
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	*	*
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2037?	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 2037?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

H.R. 2768 would direct the Secretary of Agriculture to study the feasibility of designating the 287-mile Benton MacKaye Trail system in the states of Georgia, Tennessee, and North Carolina as a national scenic trail.

Using information on the cost of similar studies, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2768 would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2026-2031 period; any related spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

On January 6, 2026, CBO transmitted a [cost estimate for S. 1376](#), the Benton MacKaye National Scenic Trail Feasibility Study Act of 2025, as reported by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry on October 27, 2025. The two bills are similar, and CBO's estimates of their costs are the same.

See also

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



The CBO staff contact for this estimate is David Rafferty. 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 tail that curves back to the left.

Phillip L. Swagel
Director, Congressional Budget Office