Congressional Budget Office
Cost Estimate

November 3, 2026

S. 3524, American Battlefield Protection Program Amendments Act of 2026

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on September 30, 2026

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2027	2027-2031	2027-2036
Direct Spending (Outlays)	*	*	*
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	*	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	1	12	not estimated

Increases *net direct spending* in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2037?	No	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Yes
		Mandate Effects	
Increases *on-budget deficits* in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2037?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

* = between -$500,000 and $500,000.

S. 3524 would reauthorize appropriations for grant programs related to the preservation of American battlefields. The bill also would require the National Park Service (NPS) to study significant sites related to the French and Indian War and the Mexican-American War.

The estimated budgetary effects of the legislation are shown in Table 1. The costs of the legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted by the end of calendar year 2026 and that the Congress will appropriate the specified and estimated amounts. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar activities.

Battlefield Protection Grants

The bill would authorize the appropriation of specific amounts totaling $20 million per year over the 2029-2036 period for three grant programs. Those grants are to acquire and restore battlefields related to the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War, and to provide interpretation and education about those battlefields. CBO estimates that implementing those provisions would cost $10 million over the 2027-2031 period and $150 million after 2031.

Table 1.
Estimated Budgetary Effects of S. 3524

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars					
	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2027-2031
	Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation					
Battlefield Protection Grants						
Authorization	0	0	20	20	20	60
Estimated Outlays	0	0	1	3	6	10
Site Studies						
Estimated Authorization	2	0	0	0	0	2
Estimated Outlays	1	1	0	0	0	2
Total Changes						
Estimated Authorization	2	0	20	20	20	62
Estimated Outlays	1	1	1	3	6	12

The bill would have an insignificant effect on direct spending as the Land and Water Conservation Fund reallocates funds for battlefield protection to other activities.

In 2026, the NPS allocated $20 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for grants related to the preservation of American battlefields. Amounts in that fund are available to spend without further appropriation, and CBO expects that all of the amounts in the fund will be spent. If the amounts authorized to be appropriated in S. 3524 were provided in future appropriations, CBO expects that the amounts being spent for battlefield preservation from the LWCF would be allocated to different purposes. Accordingly, CBO estimates that enacting S. 3524 would have an insignificant effect on direct spending over the 2027-2036 period, reflecting differences in spending patterns.

Site Studies

S. 3524 would require the NPS to study sites and structures related to significant events in the French and Indian War and the Mexican-American War. The NPS would be required to report its findings to the Congress within two years. Using information about the cost of similar reports, CBO estimates that implementing that provision would cost $2 million over the 2027-2031 period.

Previous Estimate

On October 30, 2026, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 7618, the American Battlefield Protection Program Amendments Act of 2026, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on September 30, 2026. The two pieces of legislation are similar and CBO's estimates of their budgetary effects are the same.

On May 26, 2026, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 7618, the American Battlefield Protection Program Amendments Act of 2026, as reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on May 20, 2026. The two pieces of legislation are similar, however, CBO assumes a later enactment date for S. 3524, as ordered reported in the Senate. CBO's estimates of the budgetary effects of the legislation reflect that difference.

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

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