



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 2, 2018

### **S. 141**

### **Space Weather Coordination Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
on July 24, 2018*

#### **SUMMARY**

S. 141 would authorize the annual appropriation of \$6 million over the 2019-2022 period for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to implement a pilot program to gather data on space weather. The legislation also would transfer the responsibility to coordinate inter-agency activities related to space weather from the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to the National Space Council (NSC). CBO estimates that implementing S. 141 would cost \$23 million over the 2019-2023 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts.

Enacting S. 141 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting S. 141 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029.

S. 141 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary effect of S. 141 is shown in the following table. The costs of the legislation fall within budget functions 300 (natural resources and environment) and 800 (general government).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2019-2023
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
<b>INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Authorization Level	6	6	6	6	0	24
Estimated Outlays	4	5	6	6	2	23

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 141 will be enacted in 2019 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated each year.

S. 141 would authorize the appropriation of \$6 million annually over the 2019-2022 period for NOAA to implement a pilot program to procure space weather data from private entities. Based on historical spending patterns for similar activities, CBO estimates implementing that program would cost \$23 million over the 2019-2023 period.

S. 141 also would codify existing space weather activities and transfer the responsibility for inter-agency coordination from the OSTP to the NSC. In addition, the legislation would require the OSTP to develop a roadmap for space weather research, and would direct the NSC to oversee the development of a national space weather plan. CBO expects that plan would be similar to the national space weather action plan that was released in 2015. Based on the costs of similar tasks, CBO estimates that implementing those provisions would cost less than \$500,000; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

**PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

## **INCREASE IN LONG-TERM DIRECT SPENDING AND DEFICITS**

CBO estimates that enacting S. 141 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029.

## **MANDATES**

S. 141 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

## **PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE**

On February 24, 2017, CBO transmitted a cost estimate of S. 141, the Space Weather Research and Forecasting Act, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on January 24, 2017. The two versions of the legislation have different provisions; accordingly, CBO's estimates of their budgetary effects differ.

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