

At a Glance

S. 2260, Save Our Seas 2.0: Improving Domestic Infrastructure to Prevent Marine Debris Act

As reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on September 25, 2019

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2020	2020-2024	2020-2029
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	156	not estimated
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Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

The bill would

- Authorize appropriations for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish four new grant programs
- Direct EPA to develop a strategy to improve postconsumer materials management and infrastructure
- Require EPA to complete several reports
- Direct the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct two studies in coordination with other federal agencies

Estimated budgetary effects would primarily stem from

- Specified authorizations of appropriations for EPA
- Administrative costs for several federal agencies

Detailed estimate begins on the next page.



Bill Summary

S. 2260 would authorize appropriations for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish four programs to provide grants for projects related to improving water quality through waste management. The bill also would direct EPA to develop a strategy to improve postconsumer materials management and infrastructure and to complete several reports. S. 2260 would require the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct two studies and require EPA, in consultation with the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), to report the findings.

Estimated Federal Cost

The estimated budgetary effect of S. 2260 is shown in Table 1. The costs of the legislation primarily fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under S. 2260

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars					2020-2024
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Grant Programs						
Authorization	0	85	85	85	85	340
Estimated Outlays	0	0	8	40	68	116
EPA's Administrative Costs						
Estimated Authorization	3	5	10	11	11	40
Estimated Outlays	2	5	9	11	11	38
Costs to Other Agencies						
Estimated Authorization	1	1	0	0	0	2
Estimated Outlays	1	1	0	0	0	2
Total Changes						
Estimated Authorization	4	91	95	96	96	382
Estimated Outlays	3	6	17	51	79	156

EPA = Environmental Protection Agency.

Basis of Estimate

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 2260 will be enacted near the end of 2019, that the authorized and estimated amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year, and that spending will follow historical patterns for similar projects and programs.



Grant Programs

S. 2260 would authorize the appropriation of \$85 million annually over the 2021-2025 period for EPA to establish four grant programs. Of that amount:

- \$55 million would be for improvements to postconsumer materials management and local waste management systems,
- \$10 million would support improvements in drinking water infrastructure to remove plastics and other waste,
- \$10 million would support improvements in wastewater infrastructure to remove plastics and other waste, and
- \$10 million would support projects to reduce solid waste at its source.

The grants could not be used as a source of payment of or as security for tax exempt bonds. Using information from EPA, CBO estimates that implementing the grant programs would cost \$116 million over the 2020-2024 period and a little more than \$300 million after 2024.

EPA's Administrative Costs

S. 2260 would authorize appropriations for four grant programs and CBO expects that those amounts would be used entirely for grants. In addition, EPA would require funding for the administrative costs of establishing and operating those programs. Using information from EPA regarding the resources needed to operate similar grant programs, CBO estimates that the agency would eventually require about 50 additional employees, at a cost of \$180,000 each, on average, to develop and administer the required programs. The total cost would be about \$36 million over the 2020-2024 period.

S. 2260 also would require EPA to develop a public strategy to reduce plastics and other materials in waterways and oceans and to complete several reports. CBO estimates that implementing those provisions would cost \$2 million over the 2020-2024 period.

Costs to Other Agencies

S. 2260 would require the National Academies to complete two studies: one on the uses of plastic waste in infrastructure and the other on the human health and environmental risks posed by microplastics in food supplies and sources of drinking water. Using information from the National Academies on the costs of similar studies, CBO estimates that implementing the provisions would cost \$2 million over the 2020-2024 period. The bill also would require DOT and NOAA to coordinate with the National Academies on those studies; CBO estimates that the costs to those agencies would be insignificant.



Pay-As-You-Go Considerations: None.

Increase in Long-Term Deficits: None.

Mandates: None.

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