



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

July 25, 2018

**S. 2941
Strengthening the Cooperative Observer Program Act of 2018**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation on June 27, 2018*

SUMMARY

S. 2941 would direct the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to improve the weather data collection efforts of its Cooperative Observer Program by broadening participation, expanding the availability of data-gathering equipment, and adding observation stations throughout the country.

CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$9 million over the 2019-2023 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

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

CBO estimates that enacting S. 2941 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029.

S. 2941 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. 2941 is shown in the following table. The costs of the legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars						2019- 2023
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION							
Estimated Authorization Level	0	2	2	2	2	2	10
Estimated Outlays	0	1	2	2	2	2	9

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 2941 will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2018 and that the necessary amounts will be appropriated for each year beginning in 2019.

S. 2941 would direct NOAA to improve the Cooperative Observer Program, which installs and maintains weather-recording equipment on the private property of volunteers throughout the country; those volunteers collect weather data. Currently, there are about 8,200 observation sites. In 2018, NOAA allocated \$15 million to the program.

The bill would direct NOAA to add observation stations in states and regions where observation sites are scarce and provide more automated reporting equipment to current sites. Using information from NOAA, CBO estimates that implementing those requirements would cost \$9 million over the 2019-2023 period. That amount would pay for 1,600 new observation sites and for new equipment at about 2,000 current sites.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INCREASE IN LONG-TERM DIRECT SPENDING AND DEFICITS

CBO estimates that enacting S. 2941 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029.

MANDATES

S. 2941 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

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