

S. 1069, Digital Coast Act

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on November 13, 2019

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2020	2020-2024	2020-2029
Direct Spending (Outlays)	*	*	*
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	*	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	1	16	18
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 2030?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between -\$500,000 and zero.			

S. 1069 would direct the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to continue implementing the agency’s Digital Coast Program. Under that program, NOAA makes geospatial data, decision-support tools, and best practices regarding the management of coastal areas available on a public website. The bill also would direct NOAA to focus additional data collection efforts on underserved coastal areas, such as in the Arctic.

The bill would authorize the appropriation \$4 million annually over the 2020-2024 period for NOAA to implement the program. In 2019, NOAA used \$2 million of appropriated funds to carry out the program. Because CBO scores continuing resolutions on an annualized basis, in 2020, CBO assumes that the NOAA will allocate the same amount from funds made available under the current continuing resolution (Public Law 116-59). As a result, CBO estimates that S. 1069 would authorize an increase in spending subject to appropriation in 2020 of \$2 million, the difference between the authorized amount and the annualized amount under the continuing resolution. Based on historical spending patterns for the affected grants, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$16 million over the 2020-2024 period and \$2 million after 2024 (see Table 1).

S. 1069 also would authorize NOAA to collect and spend fees, without further appropriation, for training, workshops and conferences related to the Digital Coast program. Any such collection and spending would be classified as direct spending. CBO estimates that the net



effect of such collections and spending would be negligible because the spending would probably occur soon after any receipt.

The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under S. 1069

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars					2020-2024
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Estimated Authorization	2	4	4	4	4	18
Estimated Outlays	1	3	4	4	4	16

- a. S. 1069 would authorize the appropriation of \$4 million in 2020 for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to implement the Digital Coast Program. However, using information from NOAA, CBO estimates that \$2 million has been allocated on an annualized basis from funds made available under the current continuing resolution (Public Law 116-59), which provided appropriations through November 21, 2019. Thus, the estimated authorization for 2020 (\$2 million) is equal to the specified amount (\$4 million) minus the annualized amount from the continuing resolution (\$2 million).

On October 10, 2019, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 2189, the Digital Coast Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on September 18, 2019. The two pieces of legislation are similar. CBO’s estimates of the cost to implement those bills differ because of differences in the authorization of appropriations in each bill.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Robert Reese. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.