

S. 2453, SAVE Right Whales Act

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

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2020	2020-2025	2020-2030
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	*	*
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	25	53
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 2031?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between -\$500,000 and \$500,000.			

S. 2453 would authorize the appropriation of \$5.3 million annually from 2020 through 2029 for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to provide competitive grants for projects to conserve a particular species of whale, known as the North Atlantic right whale (\$5.0 million), and to conduct surveys using a device known as a continuous plankton recorder on an ongoing basis (\$0.3 million).

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 2453 would cost \$25 million over the 2020-2025 period and \$28 million after 2025. The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall into budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

Table 1.
Estimated Budgetary Effects of S. 2453

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2020-2025
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation							
Authorization	5	5	5	5	5	5	32
Estimated Outlays	*	4	5	5	5	5	25

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding; * = between zero and \$500,000.



Under the bill, NOAA also would be authorized to accept and spend monetary gifts to supplement appropriated funds provided for the right whale conservation grants. The receipt and spending of such gifts are recorded in the budget as direct spending. Because any money received would probably be spent soon thereafter, CBO estimates that the net effect on direct spending would be negligible.

On May 13, 2019, CBO transmitted a [cost estimate for H.R. 1568](#), the SAVE Right Whales Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on May 1, 2019. H.R. 1568 and S. 2453 are similar and the CBO cost estimates for those pieces of legislation reflect differences only in the time periods over which CBO estimated the costs.

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