

H.R. 144, Supporting Early-Career Researchers Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology on March 9, 2021

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2021	2021-2026	2021-2031
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	15	500	500
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 2032?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

H.R. 144 would authorize the annual appropriation of \$250 million for 2021 and 2022 for the National Science Foundation (NSF) to establish a pilot program to award two-year grants to early-career researchers. The bill also would direct the NSF to report to the Congress on the results of the pilot program.

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted in fiscal year 2021 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated each year. Using information from the NSF, and based on historical spending patterns for similar programs, CBO estimates implementing H.R. 144 would cost \$500 million over the 2021-2026 period. The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall within budget function 250 (general science, space, and technology).

Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under H.R. 144

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2021-2026
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Authorization	250	250	0	0	0	0	500
Estimated Outlays	15	260	175	50	0	0	500

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