



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

February 15, 2018

**S. 2200
National Integrated Drought Information System
Reauthorization Act of 2018**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
on December 13, 2017*

SUMMARY

S. 2200 would amend the National Integrated Drought Information System Act of 2006 to make changes to the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS). The bill would authorize appropriations to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of \$57 million over the 2018-2022 period (and \$16 million in 2023) for the NIDIS and \$111 million over the 2018-2022 period (and \$30 million in 2023) for agricultural weather and climate forecasting.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 2200 would cost \$147 million over the 2018-2022 period and \$67 million after 2022.

Enacting S. 2200 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting S. 2200 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

S. 2200 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. 2200 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2018- 2022
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
National Integrated Drought Information System						
Authorization Level	0	14	14	14	15	57
Estimated Outlays	0	9	12	14	15	50
Agricultural Weather and Climate Research						
Authorization Level	0	27	28	28	29	111
Estimated Outlays	0	18	24	27	28	97
Total Increases						
Authorization Level	0	41	42	42	44	168
Estimated Outlays	0	27	36	41	43	147

Components do not sum to totals because of rounding.

The bill also would authorize appropriations of \$16 million in 2023 for the National Integrated Drought Information System and \$30 million in 2023 for Agriculture Weather and Climate Research.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

CBO assumes that S. 2200 will be enacted near the end of 2018 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for the programs. The bill would authorize appropriations for 2018 but at the same level already authorized for 2018. Thus, CBO does not estimate any costs for the authorization of appropriations for 2018.

National Integrated Drought Information System

NIDIS is focused on improving the nation’s capacity to manage drought-related risks by providing information to assess the potential consequences of drought and to prepare for and mitigate against drought. S. 2200 would make several changes to NIDIS, including authorizing federal agencies to work with private-sector entities to improve drought monitoring and forecasting and requiring NOAA to develop a strategy for a national, coordinated soil-moisture-monitoring network. The bill would authorize annual appropriations totaling \$57 million over the 2019-2022 period and \$16 million in 2023 for NIDIS. Under current law, in 2018 about \$14 million is authorized to be appropriated for NIDIS. In 2017, \$13.5 million was allocated to NIDIS.

Agriculture Weather and Climate Research

S. 2200 also would authorize the appropriation of \$111 million over the 2019-2022 period and \$30 million in 2023 for agricultural weather and climate research by NOAA. Under current law, in 2018 roughly \$27 million is authorized to be appropriated for agricultural weather and climate research. In 2017, about \$9 million was allocated to such research.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INCREASE IN LONG-TERM DIRECT SPENDING AND DEFICITS

CBO estimates that enacting S. 2200 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

MANDATES

S. 2200 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

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