

H.R. 6734, Keep America's Refuges Operational Act of 2022

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on June 15, 2022

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2022	2022-2027	2022-2032
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	*	*
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	7	8
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 2033?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between -\$500,000 and zero.			

H.R. 6734 would extend the authorization of appropriations (\$2 million a year) for volunteer services, community partnerships, and wildlife refuge education programs of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) through 2026. As a result, the bill also would extend the authorization for USFWS to enter into cooperative agreements with nonprofit groups, academic institutions, and state or local agencies to help finance projects that would benefit wildlife refuges. The current authorization expires at the end of 2022.

CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted by the end of calendar year 2022 and that the authorized amounts will be provided in each fiscal year. Based on historical spending patterns, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$7 million over the 2023-2027 period, and \$1 million after 2027, assuming appropriation of the specified amounts.

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

Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under H.R. 6734

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2022-2027
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Authorization Level	0	2	2	2	2	0	8
Estimated Outlays	0	1	1	2	2	1	7

By extending the authorization, the bill would allow USFWS to continue to accept gifts and payments under cooperative agreements and spend them without further appropriation. The receipt and spending of those amounts 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.

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