



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 10, 2004

S. 2488

Marine Debris Research and Reduction Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
on July 22, 2004*

SUMMARY

S. 2488 would establish a program to reduce the amount of marine debris (such as plastic and lost fishing gear) and to mitigate its effects on health and navigation safety. Under the bill, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) would conduct projects to identify and catalogue debris hazards and determine its sources, and to develop methods of removing existing debris and preventing further occurrences. The bill would authorize NOAA to provide grants to nonfederal entities such as state or local governments and universities involved with those activities. The bill also would direct the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to improve enforcement and reduce violations of existing laws and treaties that address ocean pollution waste disposal at sea, and would require the USCG to develop new regulations on disposal of plastics and fishing gear. The bill also would address international and interagency cooperation on enforcement issues and research and development. For these purposes, the bill would authorize fiscal year 2005 appropriations of \$10 million to NOAA and \$5 million to USCG.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 2488 would cost \$3 million in fiscal year 2005 and \$15 million over the 2005-2009 period. Enacting this bill would have no effect on revenues or direct spending.

CBO's analysis of the intergovernmental and private-sector mandates in S. 2488 will be provided later in a separate report.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 2488 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 300 (natural resources and environment) and 400 (transportation). For this estimate, CBO assumes that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for fiscal year 2005 and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for similar activities of the agencies involved.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Authorization Level	15	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	3	6	5	1	0

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

CBO's analysis of the intergovernmental and private-sector mandates in S. 2488 will be provided later in a separate report.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY: Deborah Reis

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Peter Fontaine
Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis