

S. 3738, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2024

As reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on May 2, 2024

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2024	2024-2029	2024-2034
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	1,225	2,500
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035?	No	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply? No	
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035?	No	Mandate Effects	
		Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

S. 3738 would authorize the appropriation of \$500 million annually for fiscal years 2027 through 2031 for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to implement the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The initiative was authorized by the Congress in 2010 to restore fish habitats and mitigate environmental degradation in the Great Lakes system, which consists of the five Great Lakes and all the rivers, lakes, and streams within the drainage basin. The basin extends to two Canadian provinces and eight U.S. states.

Under the program, EPA provides funding to state, local, and tribal governments; institutions of higher learning; and nonprofit organizations to support programs and projects to protect and restore the Great Lakes. Nonfederal sponsors are required to contribute 35 percent of a project’s total costs.

Under current law, \$450 million and \$475 million are authorized to be appropriated for the program in fiscal years 2025 and 2026, respectively, and \$368 million was appropriated for that purpose in 2024.

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



**Table 1.
Estimated Budgetary Effects of S. 3738**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars											2024-2029	2024-2034
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034		
	Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation												
Authorization	0	0	0	500	500	500	500	500	0	0	0	1,500	2,500
Estimated Outlays	0	0	0	325	425	475	500	500	175	75	25	1,225	2,500

CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2024 and that the authorized amounts will be provided for each year. Based on historical spending patterns for the program, CBO estimates that implementing S. 3738 would cost \$1.2 billion over the 2024-2029 period and \$1.3 billion after 2029.

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

Phillip L. Swagel
Director, Congressional Budget Office