

S. 3277, a bill to amend the Marine Debris Act to reauthorize the Marine Debris Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
As reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on August 1, 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	60	0
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
		Mandate Effects	
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

S. 3277 would reauthorize the appropriation of \$15 million annually through 2028 for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to operate the Marine Debris Program. The program supports efforts to remove plastics, discarded fishing gear, and other harmful materials from the marine environment. Under current law, the program was authorized through 2023; in 2024, NOAA allocated \$6 million for the program. The agency also received \$30 million annually from 2022 through 2026 to operate the program from advance appropriations in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Those amounts were designated as an emergency requirement.

Based on historical spending patterns, CBO estimates that reauthorizing the Marine Debris Program would cost \$60 million over the 2025-2029 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts.

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



**Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under S. 3277**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2024-2029
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	
Authorization	0	15	15	15	15	0	60
Estimated Outlays	0	13	15	15	15	2	60

On August 9, 2023, CBO transmitted a [cost estimate for H.R. 886](#), the Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on May 23, 2023. Both pieces of legislation would reauthorize appropriations for the Marine Debris Program but for different periods. CBO’s estimates reflect those differences.

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

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