

S. 138, Wildland Firefighter Fair Pay Act

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on November 3, 2021

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2022	2022-2027	2022-2032
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	*	not estimated
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	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 zero and \$500,000.			

S. 138 would exempt wildland firefighters, meteorologists, and incident management teams working in the Forest Service, the Department of the Interior, and the National Weather Service from premium pay limitations for work related to wildfire emergencies conducted in calendar year 2022. That is, the bill would increase the pay those federal employees could receive. S. 138 also would direct the affected agencies to submit a plan to the Congress that addresses the hiring and training of wildland firefighters.

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2022. As a result, any additional pay under this bill would be disbursed in fiscal year 2023.

Public Law 117-103, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022, increased the pay cap for firefighters within the Forest Service and Department of the Interior for calendar year 2022. Because of the small number of employees that would be affected, CBO estimates that extending the waiver to eligible National Weather Service employees and completing the required plan would have insignificant costs; any spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

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