

### At a Glance

## S. 2581, Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2023

As reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on April 8, 2024

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2024	2024-2029	2024-2034
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	471	471
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	471	471
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	*	not estimated

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?	Yes
		<b>Mandate Effects</b>	
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

\* = between zero and \$500,000.

#### The bill would

- Reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program
- Reauthorize a pilot program associated with appointing members to SRS advisory committees

#### Estimated budgetary effects would mainly stem from

- Reauthorizing payments under the SRS program

**Detailed estimate begins on the next page.**

See also

[CBO's Cost Estimates Explained](#), [CBO Describes Its Cost-Estimating Process](#), [Glossary](#)

## Bill Summary

S. 2581 would amend and reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 to reauthorize funding for the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program and a pilot program for appointing members to SRS resource advisory committees through 2026.

## Estimated Federal Cost

The estimated budgetary effect of S. 2581 is shown in Table 1. The costs of the legislation fall within budget functions 300 (natural resources and environment) and 800 (general government).

<b>Table 1. Estimated Budgetary Effects of S. 2581</b>													
	<b>By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars</b>											<b>2024- 2029</b>	<b>2024- 2034</b>
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2031</b>	<b>2032</b>	<b>2033</b>	<b>2034</b>		
	<b>Increases in Direct Spending</b>												
Estimated Budget Authority	0	157	157	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	471	471
Estimated Outlays	0	157	157	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	471	471

CBO estimates that administrative costs to implement S. 2581 would total less than \$500,000 over the 2024-2034 period; any related spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

## Basis of Estimate

CBO assumes that S. 2581 will be enacted during 2024 and that payments will be made over the 2025-2027 period. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for the affected activities.

## Background

Under the SRS program, the federal government makes payments to counties that contain National Forest System land and to some counties with land that is managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Payments are not subject to annual appropriations and the authorized amounts for a particular year are paid in the next year. In 2021, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58) authorized funding of \$282 million annually for the SRS program through 2023.

In the absence of the SRS program, eligible counties receive a share of the income generated from the federal land within the county. However, when a county chooses to participate in the SRS program, it agrees to forego payments from any income generated on such federal



land. Activities that generate that income include timber sales, recreation, grazing permits, among others.

### Direct Spending

S. 2581 would authorize the SRS program to pay eligible counties a combined total of \$282 million for each fiscal year over the 2024-2026 period. Under current law, CBO projects that the ongoing income-generating activities conducted on federal land within the counties eligible to receive payments under the SRS program will generate \$125 million a year. Those amounts would offset a portion of the payments required to be made under the bill. Therefore, on net, CBO estimates that enacting S. 2581 would increase direct spending by \$157 million each year from 2025 through 2027.

### Spending Subject to Appropriation

The bill also would reauthorize a pilot program for appointing members to SRS resource advisory committees through 2026. Based on the costs of similar activities, CBO estimates that the cost of implementing the pilot program would be insignificant over the 2024-2029 period. Any related spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

### Pay-As-You-Go Considerations

The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 establishes budget-reporting and enforcement procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or revenues. The net changes in outlays that are subject to those pay-as-you-go procedures are shown in Table 2.

**Table 2.**  
**CBO’s Estimate of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Effects of S. 2581, the Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2023, as Reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on April 8, 2024**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars											2024-2029	2024-2034
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034		
	<b>Net Increase in the Deficit</b>												
Pay-As-You-Go Effect	0	157	157	157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	471	471

### Increase in Long-Term Net Direct Spending and Deficits

CBO estimates that enacting S. 2581 would not increase net direct spending or deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035.

### Mandates

The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phillip L. Swagel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail.

Phillip L. Swagel

Director, Congressional Budget Office