



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

May 9, 2018

**H.R. 3642**  
**Military Sexual Assault Victims Empowerment Act**  
*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on May 8, 2018*

**SUMMARY**

H.R. 3642 would require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to conduct a three-year pilot program to provide treatment at non-VA medical facilities to veterans who have experienced medical sexual trauma (MST). CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$6 million over the 2019-2023 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 3642 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029.

H.R. 3642 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

**ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary effect of H.R. 3642 is shown in the following table. The costs of the legislation fall within budget function 700 (veterans benefits and services).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars						2019-2023
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
<b>INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>							
Estimated Authorization Level	0	1	1	2	1	1	6
Estimated Outlays	0	1	1	2	1	1	6

\* = less than \$500,000.

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 3642 will be enacted at the beginning of fiscal year 2019 and that the estimated amounts will be appropriated each year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar programs.

The bill would require VA to implement a three-year pilot program to treat MST patients at non-VA medical facilities. After completion of the pilot program, VA would be authorized to continue to provide such care to participants through the remainder of their treatment. The pilot program would operate in not more than five locations in the VA health care system and would include no more than 75 participants at each location, or a total of 375 participants.

On the basis of information from VA on the costs and duration of treatment for MST patients, CBO estimates an average annual cost of \$5,700 per patient over a three-year treatment period. CBO expects that VA would allow patients whose treatment was ongoing at the end of the pilot to complete that treatment in the private sector. Implementing this bill, therefore, would cost \$6 million over the 2019-2023 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates.

**PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

## **INCREASE IN LONG-TERM DIRECT SPENDING AND DEFICITS**

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 3642 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029.

## **MANDATES**

H.R. 3642 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

## **ESTIMATE PREPARED BY**

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