

H.R. 5766, VET TEC Expansion Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on March 12, 2020

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2020	2020-2025	2020-2030
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	0	0
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 2031?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

Under the Veteran Employment through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC) pilot program, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) contracts with institutions that provide training in computer programming, computer software, media application, data processing, or information services. Under those contracts, veterans who are eligible for VA education benefits can attend that training and receive monthly housing stipends while they do so. The authority to conduct the program expires in 2023, five years after the first contract was signed.

H.R. 5766 would authorize service members to participate in the VET TEC pilot program if VA determines that they will become an eligible veteran within 180 days. The bill also would eliminate the requirement that institutions must have been in operation for at least two years to be eligible for contracts as long as VA determines that they employ staff with certain credentials. Lastly, it would allow programs of education that are part-time and shorter than six months in duration to participate in the program.

To pay for the program, VA is authorized to spend up to \$15 million from mandatory appropriations each year over the 2019-2023 period; the department expects to fully expend those authorized amounts. The bill would increase the number of beneficiaries and institutions who are eligible to participate in the program but would not change the total amount of funds authorized; thus, enacting the bill would not affect federal spending.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Paul B.A. Holland. The estimate was reviewed by Leo Lex, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.