

H.R. 6140, Veterans in STEM 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 Post-9/11 GI Bill, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) pays the tuition for beneficiaries pursuing approved education programs and provides housing allowances. Beneficiaries, including veterans, service members, and their designated dependents, can receive that assistance for up to 36 months. Through the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship, the department may provide up to nine additional months of those benefits to students who pursue qualified undergraduate degrees in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, health care, or other fields approved by VA.

H.R. 6140 would make students in dual-degree programs of education that include a STEM undergraduate degree eligible for those scholarships. It also would make postgraduate students enrolled in clinical health care training programs (such as medical residency programs) eligible. Additionally, the bill would specify which applicants should have priority for receiving those scholarships.

Under current law, VA can provide a total of \$75 million in each year from 2020 to 2022, and up to \$100 million in 2023 and each year thereafter for these purposes. The department expects to award scholarships totaling the maximum amounts authorized. Expanding the scholarship would increase the number of beneficiaries who would be eligible to receive those funds but would not change the total amount of scholarships awarded; 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.