

H.R. 234, Korean American Vietnam Allies Long Overdue for Relief Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on May 4, 2021

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2021	2021-2026	2021-2031
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	87	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 2032?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

H.R. 234 would require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide health care to any U.S. citizen who served in Vietnam as a member of the armed forces of the Republic of Korea during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending May 7, 1975. Using information from the department, CBO estimates that about 3,000 people would become eligible to enroll in the VA health care system.

CBO estimates that 1,300 people would gradually enroll in VA's health care system over the next few years. We expect that those new enrollees would be similar in age and health to other Vietnam War veterans and would use VA health care at similar rates. The department expects to spend an average of \$13,500 to treat veterans of that era in 2021. After accounting for inflation, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$87 million over the 2021-2026 period. Such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall within budget function 700 (veterans' benefits and services).

Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under H.R. 234

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2021-2026
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Expanded Health Care							
Estimated Authorization	*	10	14	21	21	21	87
Estimated Outlays	*	10	14	21	21	21	87

* = between zero and \$500,000.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Etaf Khan. The estimate was reviewed by Leo Lex, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.