

## H.R. 2878, Native VetSuccess at Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot Program 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)	60	195	195
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	60	195	195
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	4	5
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Yes	<b>Mandate Effects</b>	
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. 2878 would increase the annual funding limit for the Veteran Employment through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC) pilot program and would direct the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to establish a pilot program to provide on-campus education and career counseling at tribal colleges and universities. The estimated budgetary effects of the bill are shown in Table 1.

Under the VET TEC pilot program, VA contracts with institutions that provide training in computer programming, computer software, media applications, 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. Costs for the program are paid from mandatory appropriations. The authority to conduct the program expires in 2024, five years after the first contract was signed. To pay for the program, VA was authorized to spend \$15 million annually in 2019 and 2020 and can spend \$45 million in each remaining year of the pilot.

Section 3 would increase the annual limit on the amount that VA can spend on the VET TEC pilot program to \$45 million for years before 2022 and to \$90 million for 2022 and thereafter. To date, requests for enrollment in the pilot program have exceeded available funding. VA has indicated that the increases in authorized funding for prior years would be

available to use in subsequent years; accordingly, VA would expend the additional amounts for 2019 and 2020, totaling \$60 million, in 2021.

On the basis of information provided by the department, CBO expects that interest in the program will continue to increase and that VA would fully expend the additional funding; thus, CBO estimates that enacting section 3 would increase direct spending by \$195 million over the 2021-2031 period.

**Table 1.  
Estimated Budgetary Effects of H.R. 2878**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars											2021-2026	2021-2031
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031		
<b>Increases in Direct Spending</b>													
Budget Authority	60	45	45	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	195	195
Estimated Outlays	60	45	45	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	195	195
<b>Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation</b>													
Estimated Authorization	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	*	0	0	0	4	5
Estimated Outlays	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	*	0	0	0	4	5

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

Section 2 would require VA to assign counselors at colleges and universities controlled or chartered by Indian tribes. VA would be required to provide those on-campus counseling services in three regional service areas over a five-year period beginning within 18 months of enactment. Those counselors would help students using VA education benefits to achieve their educational and career goals and effectively use their benefits.

On the basis of information provided by VA, CBO estimates that the average cost for the personnel that would be assigned under the pilot is about \$170,000 per year. Section 2 would direct VA to assign two counselors to each of the service areas; accordingly, CBO estimates that establishing the pilot program would increase spending subject to appropriation by \$5 million over the 2021-2031 period.

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