

S. 2041, Department of Veterans Affairs Provider Accountability Act

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs on July 28, 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)	0	3	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

S. 2041 would require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to document and report to the Congress annually on the department's enforcement of requirements for the licensing, education, and clinical competence of its medical staff. For this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted in fiscal year 2022.

Using information from VA, CBO expects that the department would need to hire three full-time-equivalent employees, at an average annual salary of \$100,000, to conduct audits and prepare reports. CBO estimates that compensation and operating expenses for those employees would total \$2 million over the 2022-2026 period.

The bill also would require VA to provide annual training for employees who will review and verify credential standards of VA's health care professionals. (Under current law, VA provides one-time training.) In addition, under S. 2041, the department would be required to report to the Congress on VA's policies for reporting concerns about patient safety. Using information from VA, CBO estimates that those activities would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2022-2026 period.

In total, CBO estimates, implementing the bill would cost \$3 million over the 2021-2026 period; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriations.

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