

S. 1875, Veterans' Emergency Care Claims Parity 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)	*	*	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.			

S. 1875 would require any health care provider not affiliated with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to submit a claim for reimbursement within 180 days of providing emergency care to veterans. Under current law, providers may take two years to submit claims for emergency care provided without prior authorization for conditions that are connected to or were caused by their military service; the deadline is 90 days for conditions that are not connected to veterans' military service. The bill also would shield veterans from financial liability for unpaid claims that are not submitted on time or that are delayed as a result of administrative errors made by the provider or the department.

CBO expects that most providers who submit claims after 180 days under current law would accelerate their processing to meet the new deadline. However, some of those providers who would get paid under current law may not meet the new deadline, resulting in fewer reimbursements. Given the uncertainty about how providers would respond, CBO is unable to estimate the reduction in discretionary spending.

Section 3 of the bill would require VA to publish and maintain at least one website offering detailed instructions for non-VA providers to submit claims for reimbursement. VA currently publishes similar information on emergency care provided outside VA facilities. Thus, CBO expects that satisfying that requirement would impose minimal costs on the department. In

total, CBO estimates, implementing the bill would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2022-2026 period. Such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

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