

S. 1220, United States Cadet Nurse Corps Service Recognition Act of 2021

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	*	*
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	*	not estimated
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Yes	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. 1220 would require the Department of Defense (DoD) to issue an honorable discharge to people who served in the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II if DoD determines their service warranted such classification. They did not receive discharges from DoD at the time because they were not considered members of the military. The bill also would make members of the Nurse Corps eligible for certain burial benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); it would not provide other VA benefits such as disability compensation or educational assistance. Finally, the bill would permit DoD to issue medals or other commendations to Corps members.

The costs of VA burial benefits such as headstones or grave markers for veterans who are interred in a cemetery are paid from mandatory appropriations. The bill would allow the families of deceased Corps members to request that they be buried in a veterans' cemetery or receive a VA-provided headstone for burial in a private cemetery. Some death and burial benefits require eligibility for other VA benefits such as disability compensation. Because the bill would prohibit eligibility for those benefits, CBO expects that Corps members would only receive interment benefits under the bill.

About 120,000 nurses served in the Corps during World War II. CBO estimates that about 8,100 Corps members are alive. On the basis of information about expected mortality, marriage rates, and utilization rates of VA burial benefits, CBO estimates that about

90 families would request burial benefits in 2022. CBO estimates that half would elect burial in a veterans' cemetery at a cost of \$970 and that half would choose burial in a private cemetery and receive a headstone or marker from VA at a cost of \$240. By 2031, CBO estimates that about 10 additional families would request burial benefits. CBO estimates about 380 families of deceased Corps members would utilize a VA burial benefit at an average cost of \$640. Thus, providing burial benefits would increase direct spending by less than \$500,000 over the 2022-2031 period.

CBO expects that DoD would issue honorable discharges to most members of the Cadet Nurse Corps based on their service records. The department also would provide letters as proof of such service and commemorative medals in recognition of such service upon the request of a member of the Corps or their surviving family. Based on the cost of similar medals and the number of requests for such medals, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1220 would increase spending subject to appropriation by less than \$500,000 over the 2022-2026 period.

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