

S. 2102, Supporting Expanded Review for Veterans in Combat Environments Act of 2021

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs on July 28, 2021

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2022	2022-2026	2022-2031
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	28	144	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. 2102 would require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to extend eligibility for mammographic screenings to any veteran who, after September 11, 2001, served in locations associated with exposure to toxic substances or who served in Southwest Asia during the Persian Gulf war. Under current law, the department provides mammograms to veterans who are 40 or older.

The bill would expand eligibility for mammographic screening for post-9/11 veterans who are under 40 years of age. All veterans from the Persian Gulf War are now at least 48 years of age and eligible for mammograms from VA under current law. CBO used information from VA to estimate the number of other veterans who would become eligible for mammograms under the bill because they served in locations associated with exposure to toxic substances. Based on that information, CBO estimates that each year about 112,000 veterans who are under 40 years of age would be eligible for mammograms. At an average cost of \$335 per screening, CBO estimates that providing annual mammographic screenings would cost \$144 million over the 2022-2026 period. Such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The bill would require VA report to the Congress on locations and corresponding time periods where veterans were exposed to toxic substances and open burn pits. It also would require VA to report on relative rates of breast cancer among military members who were



deployed to the locations specified in the bill, members who were not deployed to those locations, and the civilian population. Using information about similar reports, CBO estimates satisfying that requirement 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.