

S. 2720, Veterans' Prostate Cancer Treatment and Research Act

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs on December 15, 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)	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. 2720 would require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to establish programs related to the research, diagnosis, and treatment of all stages of prostate cancer. Those requirements include developing a clinical pathway for treatment, evaluating best practices, and preparing reports. In total, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost less than \$3 million over the 2022-2026 period. Such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriations.

In 2021, VA developed a customized clinical pathway for treatment of prostate cancer through the National Oncology Program Office and started implementing the program at the end of that year. The clinical pathway formally standardizes the oncology practice using a multidisciplinary approach and provides decision support to clinical care providers. Using information from VA, CBO estimates that VA has met the requirement for a clinical pathway under current law; thus, implementing that requirement would not affect the federal budget.

The bill also would require VA to establish a program evaluation tool to evaluate best practices in the multidisciplinary treatment of prostate cancer. Using information on the costs of similar efforts, CBO estimates that developing and maintaining a tool to monitor and evaluate developments in the treatment of prostate cancer would cost \$3 million.

Finally, the bill would require the department to submit two reports to the Congress. One report would describe the department's funding plan for supporting prostate cancer research.



The other would make recommendations for improving outcomes of veterans with prostate cancer and detail challenges associated with creating a national prostate cancer registry. CBO estimates that satisfying those reporting requirements would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2022-2026 period.

The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall within budget function 700 (veterans benefits and services).

Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under S. 2720

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars					2022-2026
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Evaluation Tool						
Estimated Authorization	0	2	*	*	*	3
Estimated Outlays	0	2	*	*	*	3

* = between zero and \$500,000.

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