

**H.R. 7299, Strengthening VA Cybersecurity Act of 2022**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on July 19, 2022

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2022	2022-2027	2022-2032
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	15	not estimated
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	<b>Mandate Effects</b>	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2033?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

H.R. 7299 would require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to contract with an independent entity to conduct cybersecurity evaluations of the department's information technology. Under the bill, the contractor would assess cyber vulnerabilities in five information systems chosen by the department. The contractor also would measure the effectiveness of VA's information security procedures. The bill would require the Government Accountability Office to study the results of any actions taken by the department to implement recommendations from the independent evaluation.

On the basis of similar federal cybersecurity contracts and reporting requirements, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 7299 would cost \$15 million over the 2022-2027 period. That amount includes costs for contractor salaries, hardware, and software necessary to scan VA networks and devices for cyber vulnerabilities. Such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

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 H.R. 7299**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2022-2027
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Cyber Evaluation							
Estimated Authorization	0	15	0	0	0	0	15
Estimated Outlays	0	9	5	1	0	0	15

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