

H.R. 8003, Restore Veterans Dignity 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	8	19
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	8	19
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	21	40
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 2033?	< \$5 billion	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

H.R. 8003 would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide food, clothing, bedding, hygiene items, shelter, transportation, communication devices and services, and other necessary assistance to veterans who are homeless or using rental vouchers. Similar authority was temporarily available during the public health emergency declared as a result of the novel coronavirus pandemic. On the basis of the costs for those items and services, CBO estimates that permanently authorizing the assistance would increase outlays by \$59 million over the 2022-2032 period.

Some of the beneficiaries of the homeless assistance in H.R. 8003 would be veterans who have been exposed to environmental hazards, and CBO expects that some of the costs of implementing the bill would be paid from the new Toxic Exposure Fund (TEF) established by Public Law 117-168, the Honoring our PACT Act. The TEF is a mandatory appropriation that VA will use to pay for health care, disability claims processing, medical research, and IT modernization that benefit veterans who were exposed to environmental hazards.

Additional spending from the TEF would occur if legislation increases the costs of similar activities that benefit veterans with such exposure. CBO estimates that 21 percent of such additional costs would be paid from the fund in 2023, growing to 42 percent in 2032 as costs for those activities increase over time. Those percentages are based on the amount of formerly discretionary appropriations that CBO estimated will be provided through the new mandatory appropriation as specified in the Honoring our PACT Act. CBO estimates that



over the 2022-2032 period, implementing the bill would increase spending subject to appropriation by \$40 million and direct spending by \$19 million.

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

**Table 1.
Estimated Budgetary Effects of H.R. 8003**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars											2022-2027	2022-2032
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032		
Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation													
Estimated Authorization	0	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	22	41
Estimated Outlays	0	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	21	40
Increases in Direct Spending													
Estimated Budget Authority	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	8	19
Estimated Outlays	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	8	19

The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 establishes budget-reporting and enforcement procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or revenues. The net changes in outlays that are subject to those pay-as-you-go procedures are shown in Table 1.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Paul B.A. Holland. The estimate was reviewed by Leo Lex, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.