

H.R. 4601, Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on September 21, 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	163	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 2033?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

H.R. 4601 would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide grants to state and tribal governments for outreach and assistance to veterans and their families. State and tribal governments may use the grant funds to ensure individuals are aware of benefits they may be entitled to, and to help veterans and their families apply for VA benefits. The bill would require VA to follow certain guidelines when awarding grants to state and tribal governments, such as prioritizing grants to entities in areas with high rates of suicide among veterans or areas with a shortage of veterans service officers. Veterans service officers are people who help veterans and their families apply for veterans benefits and services. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$50 million in each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028 and authorize VA to hire additional personnel to accredit veterans service officers. Based on VA's administration of other grant programs to state and tribal governments, CBO estimates providing grants under the bill would cost \$161 million.

The bill also would authorize VA to hire two or more employees. Using information on the administration of similar programs, CBO estimates VA would hire four full-time equivalent employees. Salaries and benefits for those employees would average \$155,000 annually and total \$2 million over the 2022-2027 period.

In total, H.R. 4601 would cost \$163 million over the 2022-2027 period. 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. 4601

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2022-2027
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Grants to State and Tribal Governments							
Estimated Authorization	0	50	50	50	50	50	200
Estimated Outlays	0	23	38	50	50	50	161
Personnel							
Estimated Authorization	0	*	*	*	*	*	2
Estimated Outlays	0	*	*	*	*	*	2
Total Changes							
Estimated Authorization	0	50	50	50	50	50	202
Estimated Outlays	0	23	38	50	50	50	163

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding; * = between zero and \$500,000.

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