

## H.R. 291, Department of Veterans Affairs Creation of On-Site Treatment Systems Affording Veterans Improvements and Numerous General Safety Enhancements Act

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

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2023	2023-2027	2023-2032
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	0	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. 291 would require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to identify medical facilities that could reduce operating costs by purchasing and using on-site equipment to treat and dispose of medical waste. VA currently has 22 facilities with on-site medical waste treatment systems and plans to install them at four more facilities. The costs of on-site waste removal systems have ranged from \$500,000 to \$1.5 million. VA's other facilities dispose of regulated medical waste through contracts with off-site facilities, sharing agreements with other federal agencies, and other forms of on-site activities.

If VA acquired additional treatment systems, the savings would be realized over a period of 10 years while the costs would be paid up front. Thus, CBO expects purchasing additional on-site treatment systems would increase costs over the 2023-2027 period.

However, under current law, VA provides guidance to its medical centers on waste treatment options and conducting cost-benefit analyses for using on-site equipment. The department determines the viability of using on-site waste removal processing based on the specific factors at each of its facilities. Because VA has the authority to use on-site disposal methods under current law and has done so at many facilities where it is economically and operationally viable to do so, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would not affect the federal budget.



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