

H.R. 2800, Working to Integrate Networks Guaranteeing Member Access Now Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on September 21, 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)	11	58	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. 2800 would require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide each veteran who submits a claim for VA benefits the option to allow certain Congressional employees to access their records in VA's databases. Under the bill, veterans would be able to designate an employee of the Member of Congress who represents the veteran in the Congress to access the veteran's records. VA would be required to provide those employees with read-only access to the veteran's records in VA's databases. Each Representative, Senator, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner would be able to designate two employees to access the records of veterans who reside in the district or state represented by such Member of Congress.

Using information from VA, CBO estimates that it would cost \$48 million over the 2023-2027 period to administer the system to manage Congressional employee access to VA databases. That amount would cover compensation for additional staff and for mailings and outreach to communicate with veterans in order to update each veterans' designation of access when their Congressional representation changes. On the basis of information on similar efforts, CBO estimates that making changes to VA's information technology systems to permit read-only access to veterans' claims would cost \$10 million. In total, implementing the bill would cost \$58 million over the 2023-2027 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. 2800						
	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars					2023-2027
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Operating Costs						
Estimated Authorization	10	10	10	10	10	50
Estimated Outlays	8	10	10	10	10	48
Information Technology						
Estimated Authorization	5	5	0	0	0	10
Estimated Outlays	3	5	2	0	0	10
Total Changes						
Estimated Authorization	15	15	10	10	10	60
Estimated Outlays	11	15	12	10	10	58

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