



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

February 5, 2003

**Samuel B. Moody Bataan Death March Compensation Act**

*Draft legislation as requested by Congressman Mica on January 29, 2003*

**SUMMARY**

The Samuel B. Moody Bataan Death March Compensation Act would entitle survivors of the 1942 Bataan death march to a payment for their time in captivity. CBO estimates that such payments would increase direct spending by \$11 million in 2004 and \$34 million over the 2004-2008 period. The legislation contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

**ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of the draft legislation is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 050 (national defense).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>CHANGES IN DIRECT SPENDING</b>						
Estimated Budget Authority	0	11	10	10	2	1
Estimated Outlays	0	11	10	10	2	1

**BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

The bill would entitle any veteran who was captured at Bataan or Corregidor and survived the Bataan death march payment for the veteran's time in captivity. If the veteran is deceased, and if there is an unremarried surviving spouse, the payment would be made to that surviving spouse.

CBO estimates that about 4,500 veterans from the two regions participated in the death march and survived the war. Under the draft legislation, the Department of Defense would be required to pay \$4 a day for each day spent in captivity, compounded at a rate of 3 percent a year. On average, such veterans spent about three and a half years in captivity, making the payments about \$28,000 per beneficiary in 2003.

CBO estimates that about 60 percent of the 2,000 veterans or surviving spouses still alive would receive payments under the draft legislation because not all potential beneficiaries would learn of the benefit or be able to prove their eligibility. We estimate that all of the payments would occur over the 2004-2008 period, when about 1,100 beneficiaries would collect benefits, resulting in outlays of \$34 million over that period. CBO estimates that administrative costs to provide this benefit would be negligible.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

The draft legislation does not contain any intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

## **PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE**

On April 3, 2001, CBO transmitted an estimate for H.R. 963, as introduced in the 107th Congress. The two versions of the legislation are identical. The costs for the draft legislation are lower than the estimate for H.R. 963 because the number of potential beneficiaries has decreased due to mortality.

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