



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

May 21, 2007

**H.R. 67**  
**Veterans Outreach Improvement Act of 2007**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
on May 15, 2007*

**SUMMARY**

H.R. 67 would allow the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide grants to state veterans agencies to improve the outreach activities in areas with a large or growing population of veterans and their dependents. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$8 million in 2008 and \$75 million over the 2008-2012 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or receipts.

H.R. 67 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 H.R. 67 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 700 (veterans benefits and services).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>					
Authorization Level	25	25	25	0	0
Estimated Outlays	8	21	30	14	2

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

H.R. 67 would allow VA to provide grants to state veterans agencies to improve outreach activities, particularly in areas with large or growing populations of veterans and their dependents—to ensure that those individuals are fully informed about their eligibility for veterans' benefits and programs. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$25 million for each of 2008, 2009, and 2010. The grants could be used to:

- Allow VA to enter into contracts with state veterans agencies to carry out, improve, coordinate, or enhance outreach by VA;
- Allow state veterans agencies to issue grants to local governments for outreach activities;
- Allow states to establish a local government veterans service program to provide outreach;
- Allow state veterans agencies to perform outreach activities in a local area if the local government elects not to participate in the grant program;
- Provide education and training for state and local government employees for accreditation to provide outreach services.

Such grants to states could provide no more than 50 percent of the cost of the state and local outreach activities and should not replace existing state and local funding for those purposes. Also, no portion of the grant could be used for administrative purposes such as salaries for employees.

For purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that this legislation will be enacted by the beginning of fiscal year 2008, that the specified authorization amounts will be appropriated near the start of each fiscal year, and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for similar programs. In total, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 67 would cost \$75 million over the 2008-2012 period, assuming appropriation of the specified amounts.

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

H.R. 67 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. State and local government agencies that provide services to veterans would benefit from grants and cooperative agreements to improve those programs. Assuming appropriation of authorized amounts, those agencies would receive \$75 million over fiscal years 2008 through 2012. Any costs would be incurred voluntarily as a condition of receiving federal assistance.

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