



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 15, 2008

### **H.R. 6625** **Veteran Voting Support Act**

*As ordered reported by the Committee on House Administration on July 30, 2008*

H.R. 6625 would require the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to allow states to designate VA facilities as voter registration sites and to provide information and assistance to individuals wishing to register to vote or to cast an absentee ballot. The bill also would permit nonpartisan organizations—such as the League of Women Voters—to provide such information and assistance at VA facilities. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 6625 would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2009-2013 period, subject to appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

The 1,330 facilities under VA's jurisdiction include Vet Centers, VA Medical Centers, community-based outpatient clinics, regional offices, and cemeteries. Assuming that all but the national cemeteries—about 135 in total—are feasible as voter registration sites, about 1,200 facilities could be used to offer the services that would be required under H.R. 6625.

The materials necessary for voter registration and absentee balloting are prepared by the states. The states also have existing programs to train individuals on compliance with the National Voter Registration Act. Furthermore, VA recently announced plans to use the managers of its Voluntary Services Program (VSP) as site coordinators to direct the efforts of volunteers working to ensure timely delivery of materials and information to individuals needing assistance with voter registration at VA hospitals and clinics. Assuming that VSP managers or current VA employees would be used as site coordinators at other VA facilities, and that most of the work would be done by volunteers, CBO expects that the costs associated with completing those extra duties would be less than \$500,000 over the 2009-2013 period.

H.R. 6625 also would require VA to complete annual compliance reports to the Congress outlining its efforts to utilize VA facilities as voter registration sites. CBO estimates that implementing section 7 would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2009-2013 period, subject to appropriation of the necessary amounts.

H.R. 6625 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

This estimate was prepared by Dwayne M. Wright. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.