



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 11, 2002

### **S. 281**

#### **A bill to authorize construction of an education center at or near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and for other purposes**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
on June 5, 2002*

Title I of S. 281 would authorize the establishment of an education center near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Title II would amend the Commemorative Works Act, which governs the requirements for building memorials on federal land. CBO estimates that implementing title I would cost about \$1 million annually to operate the proposed center, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Implementing title II would have no significant impact on the federal budget.

Enacting S. 281 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The bill 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.

S. 281 would authorize a private entity, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., to build an education center near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in the District of Columbia. While no federal funds would be used to build the center, the National Park Service (NPS) would operate it. Under section 8 of the Commemorative Works Act (as amended by title II of the bill), this entity would donate 10 percent of the center's construction costs to the National Park Foundation, a private nonprofit organization. Such funds would be available to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund for maintenance of the center.

Based on information provided by NPS, CBO estimates that the government would spend about \$1 million annually to operate the new education center once it is complete. Construction of the center, which would not require federal funding, would take several years.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. The estimate was reviewed by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.