



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 13, 2003

H.R. 1911

A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance cooperation and the sharing of resources between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense

As introduced on May 1, 2003

H.R. 1911 would establish a joint executive committee composed of the Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, and other employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Defense (DoD) that the respective department Secretaries may designate. This committee would be charged with promoting inter-departmental cooperation that would improve the quality of all benefits received by veterans, members of the military, military retirees, and their families.

Under the bill, the committee would review current procedures and policies relating to the coordination and sharing of resources between the two departments along with acquisition plans for new facilities and major equipment. The committee would then be charged with identifying opportunities for further cooperation that would mutually benefit veterans, servicemembers, and retirees and their families in an annual report to the Congress.

The joint executive committee would replace an existing committee that, under current law, is only concerned with cooperation between VA and DoD regarding the provision of health care. Because there would be no substantial change in the nature of the committee, CBO estimates that this proposal would have a negligible cost, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or receipts.

H.R. 1911 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact is Sam Papenfuss. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.