



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

September 11, 2003

**H.R. 2518  
Veterans Affairs Reorganization Act of 2003**

*As introduced on June 19, 2003*

H.R. 2518 would establish a new office within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) that would be responsible for providing assistance to homeless veterans. (VA currently manages its programs for homeless veterans through numerous offices within the department.) The bill also would transfer the responsibility for the homeless veterans reintegration program—a program which helps homeless veterans reenter the workforce—from the Department of Labor to VA and would make the new office responsible for implementing that program. Finally, H.R. 2518 would transfer operational responsibility for the Military Personnel Records facility of the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri, from the Archivist of the United States to VA. The Military Personnel Records facility is the primary storage facility of military personnel and medical records for former and deceased military personnel.

CBO does not expect that transferring responsibility for the homeless veterans reintegration program or transferring operational control of the Military Personnel Records facility would have a significant effect on appropriated spending for those two programs. (According to the Administration, the estimated funding in 2003 for the homeless veterans reintegration program will total about \$18 million and funding for operation of the Military Personnel Records facility will amount to about \$35 million.) CBO also estimates that the costs to establish a new office within VA to oversee assistance to homeless veterans would likely be minimal. Thus, CBO estimates that implementing this bill would cost less than \$500,000 a year, assuming the availability of appropriated funds.

H.R. 2518 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.