



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

May 16, 2011

**H.R. 1484  
Veterans Appeals Improvement Act of 2011**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on May 12, 2011*

H.R. 1484 would establish a commission to evaluate the process of judicial review for veterans' and survivors' benefits. The Veterans Judicial Review Commission would be charged with recommending ways to improve aspects of the appellate review process as it relates to veterans' benefits, including its accuracy, timeliness, and transparency. The commission also would be asked to determine the advisability of authorizing the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims to hear cases brought on behalf of a group, such as class action suits.

The commission would consist of 13 members and would be required to submit a final report to the Congress on its activities by December 31, 2012. Members would serve without pay but would be reimbursed for travel expenses. In addition, the commission could hire staff and use personnel from other federal agencies. The commission would terminate two years after submitting its final report. Based on an analysis of the costs of similar commissions, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1484 would cost \$2 million over the 2012-2015 period, assuming the availability of appropriated funds.

Enacting H.R. 1484 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

H.R. 1484 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 for this estimate is Dwayne M. Wright. The estimate was approved by Theresa A. Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.