



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 8, 2013

S. 572

Veterans Second Amendment Protection Act

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs on July 24, 2013

S. 572 would modify an existing requirement that certain individuals determined to be mentally incompetent by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) be prohibited from purchasing or possessing legal firearms. CBO expects that implementing S. 572 would have no significant budgetary impact.

Under current law, when VA deems individuals to be mentally incapacitated, mentally incompetent, experiencing an extended loss of consciousness, or otherwise unable to manage their own affairs, it is required to provide that information to the Department of Justice (DOJ). Such individuals are then added to the list of those prohibited from purchasing or possessing firearms. Under S. 572, a judicial authority would have to determine that veterans are dangerous before VA would be required to report them to DOJ. CBO expects that such a requirement would have an insignificant impact on VA's workload.

Enacting S. 572 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

S. 572 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.

On May 13, 2013, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 602, the Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on May 8, 2013. That bill's language is similar to the text of S. 572 and CBO similarly estimated no significant budgetary impact for H.R. 602.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Dwayne M. Wright. The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.