



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

October 8, 1997

S. 309

A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the establishment or collection of parking fees by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs at any parking facility connected with a Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility operated under a health-care resources sharing agreement with the Department of Defense

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs
on October 7, 1997*

Under current law, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) must charge parking fees at some medical facilities, but it has discretion over charges at other medical facilities. All proceeds must be deposited into the Parking Revolving Fund and used to pay for leasing, constructing, or altering facilities. (Maintenance costs are paid from appropriations to the medical care account.) S. 309 would prohibit VA from charging parking fees at a medical center where VA has an agreement with the Department of Defense (DoD) to share health-care resources.

Currently, VA has some type of resource-sharing agreement with DoD for almost all of its medical facilities. Therefore, if this bill is enacted, VA would lose about \$3 million a year in income from parking fees. CBO estimates that there would be no net change in direct spending because the agency is authorized to spend the fees that it collects. Discretionary outlays would rise by about \$3 million a year, however, in order for the agency to carry out activities, such as leasing parking lots, that are currently financed by fee income.

Because the bill would affect direct spending, pay-as-you go procedures would apply. The bill 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 estimate was prepared by Shawn Bishop. The estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.