



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

June 21, 2017

**H.R. 2547
Veterans Expanded Trucking Opportunities Act of 2017**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
on May 24, 2017*

H.R. 2547 would expand the types of medical professionals at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) who could certify that veterans meet the physical standards required to operate commercial motor vehicles. Currently at VA facilities only physicians may perform the physical examinations and issue the medical certificates required for commercial driver's licenses (CDLs). H.R. 2547 would allow advanced practical nurses, chiropractors, physician assistants, and other qualified medical professionals to perform those duties.

According to the Department of Transportation, physicians at VA have provided roughly 13,000 medical exams related to CDLs over the past two years. CBO expects that expanding the number of staff at VA who could issue the medical certificates would not lead to additional costs related to exams. Therefore, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2547 would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2018-2022 period to prepare regulations; any such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2547 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

H.R. 2547 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 Ann E. Futrell. The estimate was approved by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.