



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 11, 2018

H.R. 3832 **Veterans Opioid Abuse Prevention Act**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on May 8, 2018

H.R. 3832 would require medical providers at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) who prescribe controlled substances to veterans to seek information regarding those veterans from state programs that monitor prescription drug use. Under current policy, VA medical providers are required to query those state programs when prescribing such drugs. This bill would, therefore, codify VA's existing practice. As a result, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2019-2023 period, primarily to prepare the necessary regulations. That spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Enacting H.R. 3832 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 3832 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029.

H.R. 3832 would impose intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). The bill would require state-operated prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) to allow VA personnel to access the databases and would preempt state laws by limiting states' authority to revoke or deny medical licenses of VA personnel who access PDMP data. CBO estimates that the incremental cost to provide access to PDMP databases by VA personnel would be minimal because PDMPs are already operational in nearly every state and servicing new users would not require significant changes to the programs. Although the preemption would limit the application of state laws, it would impose no duty on states that would result in additional spending or loss of a revenues. Therefore, the costs of the mandates would not exceed the threshold established in UMRA (\$80 million in 2018, adjusted annually for inflation).

The bill contains no private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Ann E. Futrell (for federal costs) and Andrew Laughlin (for mandates). The estimate was reviewed by Leo Lex, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.