

H.R. 2385, a bill to permit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a grant program to conduct cemetery research and produce educational materials for the Veterans Legacy Program

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on May 8, 2019

Millions of Dollars	2019	2019-2024	2019-2029
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Deficit Effect	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	*	*
Pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

H.R. 2385 would permit the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide grants to conduct research related to veterans' cemeteries and to produce educational materials to memorialize veterans for the Veterans Legacy Program (VLP). Under the VLP, VA currently enters into contracts with educational institutions and nonprofit institutions to memorialize veterans interred in national cemeteries. In 2019, VA obligated about \$2 million for that purpose.

H.R. 2385 would allow VA to provide funding to those institutions through grants as well as through contracts. On the basis of information from VA, CBO expects that the department would use grants rather than contract in most cases, and would not increase the amount of funding it would otherwise provide for the purpose of memorializing veterans. Thus, CBO expects that providing the grant authority would not affect the federal budget. The bill would require VA to submit a report on whether grants are a financially effective means to promote the VLP. Satisfying that reporting requirement would cost less than \$500,000, subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Logan Smith. The estimate was reviewed by Theresa Gullo, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.