

At a Glance

S. 143, Department of Energy Veterans' Health Initiative Act

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on July 16, 2019

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2019	2019-2024	2019-2029
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	53	not estimated
Statutory 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

The bill would

- Direct the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to conduct collaborative research on veterans' health care issues
- Require DOE to carry out a pilot program on big data analytics
- Direct DOE and VA to allocate up to \$53 million in appropriated funds for those purposes

Estimated budgetary effects would primarily stem from

- Spending of allocations authorized for DOE and VA

Detailed estimate begins on the next page.

Bill Summary

S. 143 would require the Department of Energy and the Department of Veterans Affairs to allocate \$53 million over the 2020-2023 period for collaborative research on veterans’ health care issues and for a pilot program by DOE on big data analytics.

Estimated Federal Cost

The estimated budgetary effect of S. 143 is shown in Table 1. The costs of the legislation fall within budget functions 250 (general science, space, and technology) and 700 (veterans benefits and services).

Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under S. 143

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2019-2024
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Department of Veterans Affairs							
Estimated Authorization	0	7	7	7	6	0	27
Estimated Outlays	0	6	7	7	6	1	27
Department of Energy							
Authorization	26	26	0	0	0	0	26
Estimated Outlays	0	14	8	4	0	0	26
Total Changes							
Estimated Authorization	26	33	7	7	6	0	53
Estimated Outlays	0	20	15	11	6	1	53

S. 143 would direct the Department of Energy to allocate \$26 million in 2019 from appropriated funds. CBO does not estimate any outlays for 2019 because appropriations for 2019 have already been provided.

Basis of Estimate

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 143 will be enacted in late 2019 and that the authorized and necessary amounts will be available each year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for the affected activities. CBO estimates that implementing S. 143 would cost \$53 million over the 2020-2024 period.

Department of Veterans Affairs

Section 4 of the bill would authorize appropriations of \$27 million to be used by VA and DOE to implement a collaborative research program to analyze large-scale health and genomic data over the 2019-2023 period. The bill does not specify the amount for each year, so CBO assumes that between \$6 million and \$7 million would be used each year beginning in 2020. VA has spent \$15 million since 2017 for similar efforts.

Under the bill, VA would reimburse DOE for research expenses associated with the program. The bill also would require DOE to report to the Congress on those collaborative efforts. CBO estimates that implementing section 4 would cost \$27 million over the 2020-2024 period.

Department of Energy

Section 5 of the bill would direct DOE to allocate \$26 million annually over the 2019-2020 period for the department to carry out a pilot program to advance the use of artificial intelligence for big data analytics. CBO does not estimate any outlays for 2019 because appropriations for 2019 have already been provided.

S. 143 also would direct DOE to evaluate and report to the Congress on the effectiveness of that pilot program. CBO estimates that implementing section 5 would cost \$26 million over the 2020-2024 period.

Pay-As-You-Go Considerations: None.

Increase in Long-Term Deficits: None.

Mandates: None.

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