

H.R. 1647, Veterans Equal Access Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on March 12, 2020

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2020	2020-2025	2020-2030
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	0	0
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 2031?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

H.R. 1647 would require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to authorize physicians and other health care providers employed by the department to provide recommendations and opinions on the use of medical marijuana to veterans who live where its use is legal under state law. The bill also would require health care providers of the department to document those recommendations in the veterans' health records.

Under current policy, health care providers at VA discuss various treatment options with their patients in the course of providing health care. Additionally, VA encourages physicians to discuss marijuana use with patients who participate in state-approved marijuana programs. Thus, CBO estimates that providing information on medical marijuana would not increase VA's costs to provide health care to veterans.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Ann E. Futrell. The estimate was reviewed by Leo Lex, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.