

H.R. 6157, Transparency for Student Veterans 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)	1	2	4
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	1	2	4
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	2	13	not estimated
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Yes	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2031?	< \$5 billion	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides information on its website about VA education benefits, educational institutions, and other providers of education and training. That information includes topics of particular interest to veterans, such as whether the institution accepts GI Bill benefits and the types of resources the institution provides for veterans. The website also provides information concerning each institution's accreditation, estimated costs, student outcomes, regulatory compliance, and other performance metrics. H.R. 6157 would require VA to provide additional information on student outcomes such as graduation rates, employment rates, and median earnings for graduates.

While VA, the Department of Education, the Department of Defense, and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau currently share some information, the bill would require those agencies to share additional data. H.R. 6157 also would require VA to obtain the information specified in the bill from the Department of Labor, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and the Census Bureau.

Spending Subject to Appropriation

On the basis of testimony offered by VA, CBO estimates that making changes to VA's information technology systems so that it can obtain data from the IRS would cost \$8 million. The bill also would affect the budgets of the agencies that would provide the required information to VA. CBO estimates, on the basis of information about those agencies, that it would cost \$5 million to collect and share the required information over the

2020-2025 period. In total, implementing the bill would cost \$13 million over the 2020-2025 period; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds (see Table 1).

**Table 1.
Estimated Budgetary Effects of H.R. 6157**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2020-2025
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
	Increases in Direct Spending^a						
Estimated Budget Authority	1	*	*	*	*	*	2
Estimated Outlays	1	*	*	*	*	*	2
	Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation						
Estimated Authorization	2	7	4	*	*	*	13
Estimated Outlays	2	7	4	*	*	*	13

* = between zero and \$500,000.

a. CBO estimates that enacting the bill would increase direct spending by \$4 million over the 2020-2030 period.

Direct Spending

H.R. 6157 would increase spending by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to compile and transmit information to VA as specified by the bill. That spending is classified as direct spending because the bureau has permanent authority to spend amounts transferred from the Federal Reserve. CBO estimates the increase in direct spending would total \$4 million over the 2020-2030 period.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Paul B.A. Holland. The estimate was reviewed by Leo Lex, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.