

S. 1936, GI Bill National Emergency Extended Deadline Act of 2021

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs on December 15, 2021

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2022	2022-2026	2022-2031
Direct Spending (Outlays)	*	*	*
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	*	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	0	0
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 2032?	< \$5 billion	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

S. 1936 would change the time periods during which people can use several education benefits programs that are managed by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Enacting the bill would increase direct spending by less than \$500,000 over the 2022-2031 period, CBO estimates.

Sections 2 and 3 would extend the time that students have to use VA education benefits if they are prevented from attending courses by school closures or other reasons as determined by VA. Under current law, there are no limits on the time for many students to use their benefits, and VA has authority to extend the time to use benefits in some cases. Additionally, CBO expects that few students will be affected by prolonged school closures; because few people would be affected, CBO estimates that enacting those provisions would increase direct spending by less than \$500,000 over the 2022-2031 period.

Under current law, spouses of deceased or disabled veterans or service members who are eligible for Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance typically have 10 or 20 years to use their benefits. The children of such veterans or service members typically can use their benefits under that program between ages 18 and 26 years old. Some children qualify for extensions of up to 8 years. Some beneficiaries reach that limiting date before they use all 36 months of benefits that are available to them. Section 4 would give them an unlimited amount of time to use those benefits, effective August 1, 2023. Because eligible beneficiaries



currently have at least eight years to use benefits, they would have two additional months available during the 2022-2031 period. CBO estimates that the increase in direct spending from the use of those benefits would be insignificant.

On June 28, 2021, CBO transmitted a [cost estimate for H.R. 2167](#), the GI Bill National Emergency Extended Deadline Act, as passed by the House of Representatives on May 18, 2021. Sections 2, 3, and 6 of that bill are identical to section 2, 3, and 4 of S. 1936, respectively. Thus, CBO's estimates for those sections of H.R. 2167 and S. 1936 are the same.

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