

S. 2761, Every Veteran Counts 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) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Revenues | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays) | 0 | 16 | 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 2032? | No | Contains intergovernmental mandate? | No |
| | | Contains private-sector mandate? | No |

S. 2761 would require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to develop and to maintain a database of certain demographic information about veterans and to make the database accessible through a public website in a machine readable and anonymized format. VA would have 180 days from enactment to implement the database and would be required to update the website at least annually. The bill also would require VA to report to the Congress on the implementation of its strategy for data management.

Although VA currently provides some of the demographic data required by the bill, that information is collected irregularly and not compiled in a centralized database. According to VA, the department would require additional resources to establish and maintain the demographic database required by the bill. Based on that information, CBO estimates that VA would spend \$9 million in upfront development costs, and \$3 million in annual recurring costs for maintenance and data purchases. Those costs would begin in 2023. In total, implementing the bill would cost \$16 million over the 2022-2026 period. Such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

VA published its data strategy in 2021. Based on similar reporting requirements, CBO estimates that the requirement to update the Congress on its implementation would have insignificant costs.

The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall within budget function 700 (veterans benefits and services).



Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under S. 2761

| | By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars | | | | | 2022-2026 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|-----------|
| | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | |
| Estimated Authorization | 0 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 18 |
| Estimated Outlays | 0 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 16 |

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