

**S. 326, VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act of 2023**

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs on February 16, 2023

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2023	2023-2028	2023-2033
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	*	not estimated
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2034?	No	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No
		<b>Mandate Effects</b>	
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2034?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

S. 326 would require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to conduct long-term research on the use of medical cannabis to treat veterans with chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The bill also would authorize VA to conduct clinical trials if the department can meet certain criteria. In addition, the bill would require VA to report to the Congress on research results within 90 days of the end of the long-term study; results of any clinical trials would be reported at least annually for five years should the department conduct them.

VA studies conducted under current laws governing cannabis prescription and use have examined the risks and benefits of using cannabis to treat PTSD and chronic pain within the restrictions of other laws governing its use and prescription. One study that began in 2019 is evaluating the effects of medical cannabis treatment among 136 participants with PTSD and other health conditions. Another interventional study focused on cannabis treatment for chronic diabetic neuropathic pain. CBO expects that the department would not expand those efforts as a result of the bill. CBO estimates that satisfying the reporting requirements would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2023-2028 period. Such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.



The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Etaf Khan. The estimate was reviewed by Chad Chirico, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phillip L. Swagel".

Phillip L. Swagel  
Director, Congressional Budget Office