

H.R. 1089, VA Medical Center Facility Transparency Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on April 28, 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)	*	24	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
		Mandate Effects	
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.			

H.R. 1089 would require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to conduct certain activities regarding the management of its medical centers. Those activities include providing updated and publicly available fact sheets, providing timely notifications on staffing changes, and promptly scheduling appointments at each VA medical center. In total, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$24 million over the 2023-2028 period. Such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Section 2 would require VA to annually provide standardized fact sheets for each VA medical center. Those fact sheets would include information on the number of veterans treated, improvements that were made to the facility, and other information about achievements and special activities at the facility. The department also would be required to provide quarterly fact sheets on average wait times at each medical center. Based on information from VA, CBO expects that the department would hire three full-time employees at each of its 18 regional systems to prepare the required fact sheets for each of the VA medical centers in that region. At an average annual salary of \$80,000 per employee, CBO estimates that producing the fact sheets for every VA medical center would cost about \$4 million annually and total \$22 million over the 2023-2028 period.

See also

[CBO's Cost Estimates Explained](#), [CBO Describes Its Cost-Estimating Process](#), [Glossary](#)



Section 2 also would require VA to submit those fact sheets to the Congress and make them publicly available. CBO expects that VA would need to update its information technology systems to integrate those fact sheets on its public website. Based on costs for similar activities, CBO estimates that those upgrades would cost \$1 million over the 2023-2028 period.

Section 4 would require VA to inform the Congress when the director of a VA medical center takes a temporary assignment to perform different duties at another location. The department would be required to provide monthly updates on the status of those temporary assignments and justify an assignment that exceeds six months. Based on information from VA, CBO expects that VA would hire one additional full-time administrative assistant to prepare the recurring reports. At an average annual salary of \$70,000, implementing section 4 would cost \$1 million over the 2023-2028 period, CBO estimates.

Section 3 would require VA to immediately schedule an appointment for veterans when they call a medical center to request one. Because the department currently meets that requirement, CBO estimates that implementing this section would not affect the federal budget.

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 H.R. 1089

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2023-2028
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
Estimated Authorization	*	5	5	5	5	5	25
Estimated Outlays	*	4	5	5	5	5	24

* = between zero and \$500,000.

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

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