

S. 1591, Acquisition Reform and Cost Assessment Act of 2025

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs on July 30, 2025

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2026	2026-2030	2026-2035
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	1	24	not estimated
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036?	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 2036?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

S. 1591 would make changes to acquisition and contracting processes used by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Specifically, the bill would:

- Establish a new office to evaluate the cost of major acquisition programs;
- Require several studies and reports on how VA acquires products and services;
- Reorganize VA’s current acquisition workforce; and
- Establish new rules for vendors that test VA programs, such as those dealing with information technology.

In total, implementing S. 1591 would cost \$24 million over the 2026-2030 period, CBO estimates. Such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

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

See also

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



Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under S. 1591

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars					2026-2030
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	
Cost Assessment Office						
Estimated Authorization	2	5	5	5	5	22
Estimated Outlays	2	5	5	5	5	22
Studies and Reports						
Estimated Authorization	1	1	*	*	*	2
Estimated Outlays	*	1	1	*	*	2
Total Changes						
Estimated Authorization	2	3	3	5	5	24
Estimated Outlays	1	3	4	5	5	24

* = between zero and \$500,000.

Cost Assessment Office. S. 1591 would establish a new Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation. The director would lead a team responsible for estimating the cost of new major acquisition programs and evaluating the effectiveness of existing ones. Using information on similar offices at other agencies, CBO estimates that VA would eventually require 25 full-time equivalent employees to perform the office’s duties. Those employees would receive an average annual compensation of about \$200,000. As a result, establishing the new office would cost \$22 million over the 2026-2030 period, CBO estimates.

Studies and Reports. The bill would require VA to contract with the Department of Defense’s Acquisition Research Center to conduct a study of VA’s acquisition processes. Using information from VA, CBO estimates that satisfying that requirement would cost \$1 million. The bill also would require four other studies and reports. Using information on the cost of similar efforts, CBO estimates that satisfying those requirements would cost \$1 million. In total, the bill’s study and reporting requirements would cost \$2 million over the 2026-2030 period, CBO estimates.

Acquisition Reorganization. S. 1591 would reorganize VA’s existing acquisition workforce and processes under a new Assistant Secretary for Acquisition. VA currently employs people who would fill positions under the reorganization and meet the bill’s requirements for acquisition processes (such as appointing managers for major programs). Thus, CBO estimates that any associated costs would be less than \$500,000.

Program Testing. The bill would direct VA to contract for independent verification and validation (IV&V) services, including for testing information technology systems to ensure they function properly and meet VA’s requirements. Any such contract must ensure that the vendor has experience performing IV&V services at other agencies and has no conflict of interest that would prevent independent testing. VA currently contracts for IV&V services



for major acquisition programs. CBO estimates that the cost of modifying those contracts to meet the bill's requirements would be less than \$500,000.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phillip L. Swagel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail.

Phillip L. Swagel
Director, Congressional Budget Office