

**H.R. 3495, Improve Well-Being for Veterans Act**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on December 5, 2019

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2020	2020-2024	2020-2029
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	90	not estimated
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	<b>Mandate Effects</b>	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

H.R. 3495 would require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to make grants over a three-year period to organizations that provide suicide-prevention services for veterans and their family members. The bill also would require VA to train grant recipients on how to collect and report to VA the information they must provide as a condition of those grants. It would require VA to assess and report on the effectiveness of the program.

Using information from VA regarding the time needed to solicit and select grantees, CBO expects that VA would make the first grants in 2021. Under the bill, VA would award up to 25 grants in the first year, 35 in the second year, and 50 in the third and final year. VA may award grants of up to \$750,000 to each recipient in any year. CBO estimates that awarding those grants would cost \$83 million over the 2021-2024 period. CBO expects that VA would hire four additional staff, at an average annual compensation of \$130,000, to administer the grant program. CBO estimates that compensating those employees would cost \$2 million over the 2020-2024 period.

The bill also would authorize appropriations of \$1 million for each year of the program for VA to provide training and assistance to grantees. CBO estimates that those activities as well as an assessment of the program would cost \$5 million over the 2021-2024 period.

In total, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3495 would cost \$90 million over the 2020-2024 period; subject to the availability of appropriations. (See Table 1.)

**Table 1.**  
**Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under H.R. 3495**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars					2020-2024
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Estimated Authorization	*	20	30	40	*	90
Estimated Outlays	*	20	30	40	*	90

\* = between zero and \$500,000.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Ann E. Futrell. The estimate was reviewed by Leo Lex, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.