

H.R. 3856, a bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on disparities associated with race and ethnicity with respect to certain benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on July 28, 2021

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2021	2021-2026	2021-2031
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	1	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

H.R. 3856 would require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to assess whether there are racial or ethnic disparities with respect to compensation paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs to veterans who have disabilities resulting from medical conditions or injuries incurred or aggravated while on active military duty. The bill also would require GAO to develop recommendations to improve data collection on such disparities, brief the Congress on the results of the study, and submit a final report.

On the basis of information about similar studies, CBO estimates completing the study would cost \$1 million over the 2021-2026 period; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

On June 21, 2021, CBO transmitted a [cost estimate for S. 1031](#), as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs on May 26, 2021. That bill is identical to H.R. 3856, as described above; accordingly, CBO's estimates for the bills are the same.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Paul B.A. Holland. The estimate was reviewed by Leo Lex, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.