

H.R. 4626, VA Assessment by Independent Measures Act

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

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2022	2022-2026	2022-2031
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	56	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. 4626 would require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to contract with one or more private entities to conduct an extensive assessment of its health care system at least once every 10 years. That audit would evaluate the VA health care system in 16 areas including patient demographics, staffing and productivity, and business processes. The bill also would require the private entity to use data that has already been collected during other evaluations when feasible. The private entity would complete the initial assessment by the end of 2025 and submit a report on its findings and recommendations.

Under the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014, VA spent \$66 million for a private entity to conduct an in-depth assessment of similar scope, which included audits of several of the areas identified in the bill. On the basis of those costs, accounting for savings from using existing data, and adjusting for inflation, CBO estimates that completing the assessment would cost \$56 million over the 2022-2026 period.

The bill also would require that VA publish the assessment and submit to the Congress a report on the feasibility of the recommendations. Using information about similar reports, CBO estimates that satisfying those requirements would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2022-2026 period. Such spending would be subjected to the availability of appropriated funds.

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