

**S. 2502, Kenneth P. Thompson Begin Again Act**

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on September 23, 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)	*	*	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 2032?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

S. 2502 would increase the number of first-time offenders who could have their records expunged following a conviction for simple drug possession. Under current law, people who are found guilty of a simple drug possession offense under federal law can be ordered by a judge to undergo a period of probation, rather than being charged with a crime, if they have not previously been convicted of a drug offense under federal or state law. Offenders who successfully complete the probation program, and who were under the age of 21 at the time the offense was committed, can then apply for expungement of their federal record.

S. 2502 would allow any first-time offender convicted of simple possession who completes the federal probation program to have their record expunged, regardless of their age. According to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, each year a few dozen people under the age of 21 are ordered to undergo probation for simple drug possession. CBO expects that the number of additional people who would become eligible for expungement under S. 2502 would be similarly small. On that basis, CBO estimates that the administrative costs to expunge their records would not be significant; any spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Jon Sperl. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

See also CBO's *Cost Estimates Explained*, [www.cbo.gov/publication/54437](http://www.cbo.gov/publication/54437); *How CBO Prepares Cost Estimates*, [www.cbo.gov/publication/53519](http://www.cbo.gov/publication/53519); and *Glossary*, [www.cbo.gov/publication/42904](http://www.cbo.gov/publication/42904).