

**S. 106, Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act**

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs on February 16, 2023

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2023	2023-2028	2023-2033
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	23	153	not estimated
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2034?	No	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No
		<b>Mandate Effects</b>	
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2034?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

S. 106 would authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide grants to state and tribal governments for outreach and assistance to veterans and their families. State and tribal governments may use the grant funds to ensure individuals are aware of benefits they may be entitled to, and to help veterans and their families apply for VA benefits. The bill would require VA to follow certain guidelines when awarding grants to state and tribal governments, such as prioritizing grants to entities in areas with high rates of suicide among veterans or areas with a shortage of veterans service officers. Veterans service officers are people who help veterans and their families apply for veterans benefits and services. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$50 million in each of fiscal years 2023 through 2025. Based on VA's administration of other grant programs to state and tribal governments, CBO estimates providing grants under the bill would cost \$150 million.

CBO expects that VA would require additional personnel to administer the grant program. Using information on the administration of similar programs, CBO estimates VA would hire four full-time equivalent employees. Salaries and benefits for those employees would average \$160,000 annually and total \$3 million over the 2023-2028 period.

In total, S. 106 would cost \$153 million over the 2023-2028 period. 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).

**Table 1.  
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under S. 106**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2023-2028
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	
Grants to State and Tribal Governments							
Authorization	50	50	50	0	0	0	150
Estimated Outlays	23	38	50	27	12	0	150
Personnel							
Estimated Authorization	*	1	1	1	*	*	3
Estimated Outlays	*	1	1	1	*	*	3
Total Changes							
Estimated Authorization	50	51	51	1	*	*	153
Estimated Outlays	23	39	51	28	12	*	153

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

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

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