



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 16, 2009

H.R. 1037 **Pilot College Work Study Programs for Veterans Act of 2009**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on June 10, 2009

H.R. 1037 would require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to conduct a five-year pilot program to expand work-study opportunities for veterans. Assuming appropriation of the specified amounts, CBO estimates that implementing this program would cost \$47 million over the 2010-2014 period. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

The current work-study program is limited to positions in certain VA facilities and, on campus, to assisting other veterans in obtaining veterans' education benefits. Under this pilot, veterans could also take positions in academic departments and student services. H.R. 1037 would authorize the appropriation of \$10 million each year over the 2010-2014 period for this program. Given information from VA, CBO anticipates that nearly 3,500 additional veterans each year would participate in work study under this provision. CBO estimates that costs to VA would increase by \$7 million in 2010 and by \$10 million each year over the 2011-2014 period, subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

H.R. 1037 contains no private-sector or intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. Any costs to public institutions of higher education would be incurred voluntarily.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Camille Woodland. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.