



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 18, 2007

### **H.R. 1660**

#### **A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in the southern Colorado region**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
on May 15, 2007*

#### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 1660 would direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) to establish a new national cemetery for deceased veterans located in the southern Colorado region. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$3 million in 2008 and \$24 million over the 2008-2012 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or receipts.

H.R. 1660 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no significant costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 1660 is shown in the following table. The estimate assumes that H.R. 1660 will be enacted by October 1, 2007, and that the necessary amounts will be appropriated for each year. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 700 (veterans benefits and services).

Based on information from VA about the costs of cemeteries currently under construction, CBO estimates that the planning and construction of a new national cemetery would require the appropriation of \$41 million over the 2008-2012 period. According to VA, it takes about five years, on average, to establish a new national cemetery.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>					
Estimated Authorization Level	11	0	5	0	25
Estimated Outlays	3	8	3	2	8

In 2008 and 2009, costs of about \$11 million would stem from environmental impact studies and the acquisition of the needed land. The subsequent planning, design, and preparation of specifications for the cemetery would take about two years and cost about \$5 million. CBO estimates that the appropriation of about \$25 million would be necessary in 2012 for cemetery construction, and that the resulting outlays would occur over a three-year period. In sum, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$24 million over the 2008-2012 period (with additional outlays of \$17 million after 2012), assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 1660 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no significant costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

### **ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

Federal Costs: Dwayne M. Wright  
Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Melissa Merrell  
Impact on the Private Sector: Victoria Liu

### **ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:**

Peter H. Fontaine  
Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis