



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 26, 2003

### **H.R. 1442**

#### **A bill to authorize the design and construction of a visitor center for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on September 24, 2003*

H.R. 1442 would authorize the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. (VVMF) to construct a visitor center near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in the District of Columbia. The center would be established on federal land in accordance with the Commemorative Works Act (CWA). While no federal funds would be used to build the new facility, the National Park Service (NPS) would operate it at federal expense.

Based on the costs of managing similar interpretive facilities in the National Park System (and assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts), CBO estimates that the NPS would spend about \$1 million annually to operate the new visitor center once it has been constructed. This amount excludes routine maintenance, which would be carried out by the VVMF.

Section 8 of the CWA would require the VVMF to also deposit an amount equal to 10 percent of the center's construction cost into the U.S. Treasury. The NPS could use the deposited funds without further appropriation for catastrophic maintenance. Thus, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1442 would increase federal revenues by between \$0.5 million and \$1 million once the center has been completed—probably several years after the legislation's enactment. Revenues would be largely offset (over many years) by new direct spending.

H.R. 1442 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

On June 30, 2003, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 1076, a bill to authorize construction of an education center at or near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on June 25, 2003. H.R. 1442 is similar to title I of S. 1076, and the CBO cost estimate of the two versions of

the proposal would have the same discretionary costs. However, we estimated that S. 1076 would not have any effect on federal revenues or direct spending because that version of the legislation would require that the 10 percent maintenance deposit be made to (and spent by) the National Park Foundation (a nonfederal entity).

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. The estimate was reviewed by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.