



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

November 2, 2009

S. 1178 Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2009

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on October 22, 2009

SUMMARY

S. 1178 would provide federal recognition to six Indian tribes in Virginia—the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Eastern Division of the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe. Federal recognition would make the tribes eligible to receive benefits from various federal programs. CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would cost \$52 million over the 2010-2014 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary funds. Enacting S. 1178 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 1178 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1178 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 450 (community and regional development) and 550 (health).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010-2014
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Bureau of Indian Affairs						
Estimated Authorization Level	2	2	2	2	2	10
Estimated Outlays	1	2	2	2	2	9
Indian Health Service						
Estimated Authorization Level	8	8	9	9	10	44
Estimated Outlays	7	8	9	9	10	43
Total Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	10	10	11	11	12	54
Estimated Outlays	8	10	11	11	12	52

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 1178 will be enacted early in fiscal year 2010. S. 1178 would provide federal recognition to six Indian tribes in Virginia. Such recognition would allow the tribes, with membership totaling about 3,400 people, to receive benefits from various programs administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Indian Health Service (IHS). Based on the average per capita expenditures by those agencies for other Indian tribes, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1178 would cost \$52 million over the 2010-2014 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary funds.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

BIA provides funding to federally recognized tribes for various purposes, including child welfare services, adult care, community development, and general assistance. In total, CBO estimates that providing BIA services would cost \$9 million over the 2010-2014 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary funds. This estimate is based on per capita expenditures for other federally recognized tribes located in the eastern United States.

Indian Health Service

S. 1178 also would make members of the tribes eligible to receive health benefits from the IHS. Based on information from the IHS, CBO estimates that about 56 percent of tribal members—or about 1,900 people—would receive benefits each year. CBO assumes that the cost to serve those individuals would be similar to funding for current IHS beneficiaries—about \$4,000 per individual in 2009. Assuming appropriation of the necessary funds and adjusting for anticipated inflation, CBO estimates that IHS benefits for the tribes would cost \$43 million over the 2010-2014 period.

Other Federal Agencies

In addition to BIA and IHS funding, certain Indian tribes also receive support from other federal programs within the Departments of Education, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, and Agriculture. Based on their status as tribes recognized by Virginia, the tribes specified in the bill are already eligible to receive funding from those departments. Thus, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1178 would not add to the cost of those programs.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 1178 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On April 29, 2009, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 1385, the Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2009, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on April 22, 2009. At that time, CBO estimated that implementing H.R. 1385 would cost \$65 million over the 2010-2014 period.

The two bills are very similar. Based on new information from the tribes, CBO now estimates that membership of the tribes that would be affected by H.R. 1385 or S. 1178 totals about 3,400 (about 800 less than estimated for H.R. 1385). As a result, CBO expects that fewer tribal members would be eligible to receive benefits from certain federal programs under both bills. Thus, CBO currently estimates that implementing either bill would cost \$52 million over the 2010-2014 period.

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