



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

November 24, 2009

H.R. 3940

A bill to amend Public Law 96-597 to clarify the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to extend grants and other assistance to facilitate political status public education programs for the peoples of the non-self-governing territories of the United States

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources
on November 18, 2009*

H.R. 3940 would authorize the Department of the Interior (DOI) to provide assistance to some U.S. insular areas (Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) in implementing programs to educate their citizens about options for the political status of those areas—including, but not limited to statehood, free association, independence, or maintaining the status quo. Currently, those areas are territories of the United States. Based on information from DOI and the costs of similar programs, CBO estimates that implementing such public education programs would cost the federal government about \$2 million over the 2010-2014 period, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

The legislation 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.

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