



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 2, 2007

H.R. 1294

Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2007

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on April 25, 2007

SUMMARY

H.R. 1294 would provide federal recognition to six Indian tribes in the state of 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. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1294 would cost \$40 million over the 2008-2012 period, assuming the appropriation of the necessary funds. Enacting H.R. 1294 would have no effect on direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 1294 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no direct costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 1294 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 450 (community and regional development) and 550 (health).

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

H.R. 1294 would provide federal recognition to six Indian tribes in the state of Virginia. Although the bill does not specifically authorize the appropriation of funds, such recognition would allow the tribes to receive funding from various programs administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Indian Health Service (IHS).

		By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Bureau of Indian Affairs						
Estimated Authorization Level		2	2	2	2	2
Estimated Outlays		2	2	2	2	2
Indian Health Service						
Estimated Authorization Level		6	6	6	6	7
Estimated Outlays		5	6	6	6	7
Total Changes						
	Estimated Authorization Level	8	8	8	8	9
	Estimated Outlays	7	8	8	8	9

Bureau of Indian Affairs

BIA provides funding to federally recognized Indian tribes for various purposes, including child welfare services, adult care, community development, and general assistance. Based on information from the tribes and the state, CBO estimates that there are approximately 3,175 members of the affected tribes. Assuming the appropriation of the necessary funds, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1294 would cost BIA \$10 million over the 2008-2012 period. This estimate is based on BIA expenditures for other federally recognized tribes located in the eastern United States; the affected tribes may qualify for more or fewer BIA services than other tribes in the region, thus, BIA's cost to implement this bill may be more or less than \$10 million over the next five years.

Indian Health Service

H.R. 1294 also would make members of the tribes affected by the bill eligible to receive health benefits from IHS. Based on information from IHS, CBO estimates that about 55 percent of tribal members—or about 1,800 people—would receive benefits each year. CBO estimates that the cost to serve those individuals would be similar to funding for current beneficiaries—about \$3,200 per individual in 2008. Assuming appropriation of the necessary funds, CBO estimates that IHS benefits for the tribes affected by the bill would cost \$5 million in 2008 and \$30 million over the 2008-2012 period.

Other Federal Agencies

In addition to BIA and IHS, certain Indian tribes also receive funding from other federal programs within the Departments of Education, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, and Agriculture. Based on their status as state-recognized tribes, the six tribes affected by the bill are currently eligible to receive funding from those sources. Thus, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1294 would not add to the cost of those programs.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 1294 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no direct costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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