



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

July 22, 1998

H.R. 1983
Narragansett Justice Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on June 17, 1998

CBO estimates that H.R. 1983 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. H.R. 1983 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

H.R. 1983 would amend the Rhode Island Indian Claims Settlement Act (25 U.S.C. 1708(b)) to treat Indian settlement lands, particularly the lands of the Narragansett Tribe, as Indian lands for the purposes of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA). Under current law, such settlement lands are not considered Indian lands; therefore, gaming on these lands pursuant to the IGRA is not permitted. H.R. 1983 would classify Indian settlement lands as Indian lands, and thus would allow gaming on them.

This bill would benefit the Narragansett tribe by allowing gambling operations on their lands under the terms of the IGRA. The state of Rhode Island and some local governments in the state would probably face some costs, and possibly some benefits, as a result of gambling on tribal lands, but CBO cannot predict exactly how the budgets of these governments would be affected. Under IGRA, the tribe must negotiate a compact with the state before it can commence gambling on tribal lands.

The CBO staff contact is Kristen Layman. This estimate was approved by Paul N. Van de Water, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.