



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

September 29, 2000

**S. 2688
Native American Language Act Amendments Act of 2000**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
on September 27, 2000*

SUMMARY

S. 2688 would authorize the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary for a new grant program for native language schools and related programs for Native Americans. The grants would be authorized through 2006, administered by the Secretary of Education, and subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that spending to implement the bill would total about \$43 million over the 2001-2005 period. S. 2688 would not affect direct spending or receipts, so pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply to the bill.

S. 2688 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state or local governments. Implementing this bill would benefit tribal governments, and any resulting costs to those governments would be incurred voluntarily.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 2688 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 500 (education, employment training, and social services).

TABLE 1. ESTIMATED BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF S. 2688

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	7	8	12	18	23
Estimated Outlays	0	1	6	8	12	17

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For the purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 2688 will be enacted early in October 2000 and that the funds necessary to implement the bill will be appropriated by early in each fiscal year. Estimated outlays reflect the spending rates of other Indian education grant programs of the Department of Education.

This bill would authorize such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2001 through 2006 for federal grants to Native American organizations for the purpose of operating Native American language survival schools and Native American language nests. The language survival schools enroll children eligible for elementary or secondary education and use the native language as the dominant language for instruction. To be eligible for funds, a school would have to have at least three years of experience in operating a program in which the instruction is conducted in the native language, and the program would have to provide for a minimum of 700 hours of instruction per student annually for at least 15 students. As defined by the bill, Native American language nests would be full-time programs targeted at children below the age of seven, in which native language and culture would be taught and supporting services to their families would be provided. To be eligible for funding, nests would have to enroll at least 10 children and provide at least 5 percent of the operating funds from other sources, including other federal grants. The bill would also authorize demonstration grants for three entities to assist Native American organizations with the establishment of language survival schools and nests. Those organizations are the Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikolani College of the University of Hawaii at Hilo in consortium with the 'Aha Punana Leo, Inc., the Alaska Native Language Center of the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, and the Piegan Institute of Browning, Montana.

The purposes and uses of the funds authorized by this bill are very broadly defined; thus, the costs are difficult to estimate. CBO used data obtained from the Department of Education

and various Native American organizations currently involved in similar programs to estimate the potential cost of the bill.

CBO estimates that implementing this bill would require appropriations of \$7 million in 2001 and \$67 million over the 2001-2005 period. As many as 10 language survival schools could meet the three-year requirement today, and as many as 40 schools are in various stages of formation. CBO assumes that the existing schools would participate beginning in 2001. Participation by new schools would be phased in slowly, and CBO assumes that the additional 40 schools would participate with at least one operational classroom by 2006, the last year of the authorization. CBO further assumes that the bill would cover the current operating budgets of these schools. Based on information for the current schools, the language survival schools are assumed to be small, serve fewer than 100 children each, and have annual costs of about \$250,000 when fully operational.

Few Native American language nest programs exist today. CBO assumes that, by the end of the authorization period, about one-third of all of the 185 federally-recognized Native American tribal organizations and the Native Hawaiian organizations would establish a nest program serving about 30 children and their parents. Based upon data for similar existing programs, the annual costs per nest are expected to total about \$250,000.

S. 2688 would also authorize funds for three demonstration programs. Based on information from the three entities, CBO estimates that the cost of these grants would be \$3 million in 2001, including about \$1 million in one-time expenses. After 2001, annual costs would be \$2 million to \$3 million annually.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

S. 2688 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state or local governments. CBO estimates that tribal organizations would receive \$43 million over the next five years to support tribal schools providing instruction using Native American languages. Any costs associated with receipt of those funds would be incurred voluntarily.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR

S. 2688 contains no private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

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