



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

September 29, 2000

**H.R. 1460**

**An act to amend the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Alabama and Coushatta Indian Tribes of Texas Restoration Act to decrease the requisite blood quantum required for membership in the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo tribe**

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

H.R. 1460 would decrease the level of tribal blood required for membership in the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo tribe. Currently, individuals must have a blood quantum level of at least one-eighth to qualify for tribal membership. This act would change that level to one-sixteenth for the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo tribe.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1460 would cost the federal government \$5 million over the 2001-2005 period, assuming that the tribe receives health services and benefits at a level similar to currently recognized tribes and that the necessary funds are appropriated. Enacting H.R. 1460 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 1460 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.

Although H.R. 1460 does not specifically authorize the appropriation of funds, it would increase the number of people eligible to join the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo tribe, and thus become eligible for health service benefits available to members of federally recognized Indian tribes. The Indian Health Service (IHS) could seek additional funds to provide benefits to new tribal members.

Based on information from IHS, CBO estimates that the average annual cost of health service and benefits provided to tribal members is about \$1,500 per individual. Based on information from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1460 would increase the population of the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo tribe by about 550 members in 2001. Therefore, CBO estimates that H.R. 1460 would cost the federal government about \$1 million each year.

On August 15, 2000, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 1460 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on July 26, 2000. The two versions of the legislation are identical, as are our cost estimates.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Lanette J. Keith and Eric Rollins. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.