



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 6, 2000

### **S. 1508**

### **Indian Tribal Justice Technical and Legal Assistance Act of 1999**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on June 28, 2000*

#### **SUMMARY**

S. 1508 would authorize funding for programs that support tribal justice systems. The act would authorize the appropriation of \$464 million over the 2000-2007 period, including \$58 million already authorized for 2000, for the Secretary of the Interior to carry out certain provisions of the Indian Tribal Justice Act. S. 1508 also would authorize the Attorney General to make grants to organizations through 2004 to develop and strengthen tribal justice systems. CBO estimates this effort would cost about \$5 million annually, assuming appropriation of the necessary funds. In 2000, neither the Department of the Interior (DOI) nor the Department of Justice (DOJ) received appropriated funds to implement these programs.

Based on information from DOI and DOJ, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1508 would cost \$287 million over the 2001-2005 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts for each of fiscal years 2001 through 2005. The act would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. S. 1508 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1508 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 450 (community and regional development) and 750 (administration of justice).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>					
Estimated Authorization Level	63	63	63	63	58
Estimated Outlays	46	59	61	63	58

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 1508 will be enacted near the start of fiscal year 2001 and that the authorized amounts will be provided for each year. Estimates of outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar programs.

S. 1508 would authorize the appropriation of \$58 million a year for fiscal years 2000 through 2007 for the Secretary of the Interior to establish and operate the Office of Tribal Justice Support. Under current law, \$58 million is already authorized in 2000 for this work, but no funds have been appropriated thus far. The purpose of the office would be to develop, operate, and enhance tribal justice systems and traditional judicial practices of tribal governments. Based on information from DOI, CBO estimates that implementing this provision would cost \$267 million over the 2001-2005 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amount for each year.

S. 1508 also would authorize the Attorney General to make grants to organizations representing personnel of tribal judicial systems and to nonprofit organizations providing legal services to tribes. The Attorney General would provide grants and technical assistance to tribes to assist them in developing and operating tribal justice systems and related programs. This provision would authorize the appropriation of such sums as are necessary through 2004. Based on information from DOJ, CBO estimates that implementing these provisions would require an annual appropriation of \$5 million, and would result in spending of \$20 million over the 2001-2005 period.

**PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

S. 1508 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

## **PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE**

On October 25, 1999, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 1508, the Indian Tribal Justice and Legal Assistance Act of 1999, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on October 13, 1999. The estimates differ because CBO now assumes a later enactment date for this legislation.

**ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:** Lanette J. Keith

**ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:**

Robert A. Sunshine  
Assistant Director for Budget Analysis