



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

July 30, 2007

H.R. 1696

A bill to amend the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Alabama and Coshatta Indian Tribes of Texas Restoration Act to allow the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo tribe to determine blood quantum requirement for membership in that tribe

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on July 18, 2007

H.R. 1696 would amend the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Alabama and Coshatta Indian Tribes of Texas Restoration Act to eliminate the requirement that individuals have a blood quantum level of at least one-eighth to qualify for tribal membership. This legislation would allow the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo tribe to establish its own blood quantum requirement for determining membership. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1696 would cost the federal government \$5 million over the 2008-2012 period, assuming that the tribe receives benefits at a level similar to currently recognized tribes and that the necessary funds are appropriated. Enacting H.R. 1696 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 1696 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. Enacting this legislation would benefit the Ysleta tribe in Texas.

Based on information from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo tribe, CBO estimates that H.R. 1696 would increase the tribal population by about 470 members in 2008. Although H.R. 1696 does not specifically authorize the appropriation of funds, additional members of the tribe would become eligible for services from the Indian Health Service (IHS) and BIA. Those services are available to members of federally recognized Indian tribes.

Based on information from IHS, CBO estimates that about 55 percent of new tribal members—or about 235 people—would receive benefits each year. CBO expects that the cost to serve those individuals would be similar to funding for current beneficiaries—about \$3,200 per person in 2008. CBO expects that additional costs for services provided by BIA would be insignificant. As such, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1696 would cost

the federal government about \$1 million each year, assuming the availability of appropriated funds.

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