



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

September 25, 2000

**S. 2282
Native American Agriculture Research, Development, and Export
Enhancement Act of 2000**

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on September 6, 2000

S. 2282 would modify and expand federal support for certain agricultural and resource management programs for Native Americans. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost about \$2 million over the 2001-2005 period, assuming the appropriation of the necessary amounts. S. 2282 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.

Title I would establish the Office of Native American Programs and Policy within the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to coordinate the department's existing services and programs for Native Americans and to implement a new Native American export and trade promotion program. The bill would authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2001 through 2004 for these activities. Based on information from USDA, CBO estimates that implementing these provisions would cost about \$500,000 a year, or a total of \$2 million over the four-year period.

Title II would authorize appropriations for an Indian Tribal Bison Management and Self Determination Demonstration Project at the Department of the Interior. It would require that all of the project's funds be awarded to the Intertribal Bison Cooperative (ITBC) through contracts consistent with Indian Self-Determination and Education Act. In recent years, the Congress has appropriated about \$1 million a year for grants to the ITBC and to individual tribes to manage bison resources and market bison products. CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would increase the cost of such programs because the ITBC could be reimbursed for contract support costs that are not covered by existing grants. We estimate, however, that the additional annual cost would not be significant.

The CBO staff contact is Lanette J. Keith. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.