



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 8, 2002

### **H.R. 2385** **Virgin River Dinosaur Footprint Preserve Act**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
on July 31, 2002*

CBO estimates that H.R. 2385 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. The legislation would affect direct spending; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but we estimate that any such effects would total less than \$500,000.

H.R. 2385 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to provide a grant of \$500,000 to the city of St. George, Utah, to allow that city to purchase certain privately owned lands that contain paleontological resources. The legislation would require the Secretary to use existing funds to make that grant. For fiscal year 2002, the Congress provided \$500,000 for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to purchase land in St. George, Utah. By authorizing the Secretary to provide those funds directly to the city, H.R. 2385 would change the underlying purpose for which those funds could be spent, and any resulting change in the timing of outlays would be subject to pay-as-you-go procedures. Based on information from BLM, however, CBO estimates that any such change would be insignificant.

H.R. 2385 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. The assistance authorized by this legislation would benefit the city of St. George. Any costs incurred by that or other governments to match federal funds or comply with other conditions of this assistance would be voluntary.

On September 18, 2001, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 2385 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on September 12, 2001. Our estimate of spending under the Senate version is lower than under the House version for two reasons. First, at the time of our previous estimate, no funds had been appropriated to enable the city to acquire the land; hence, we estimated that making the grant would increase spending subject to appropriation by \$500,000. Second, the House version would direct the Secretary to enter into a cooperative agreement with the city to manage the paleontological resources and would authorize the Secretary to spend an additional \$500,000 to help the city meet its responsibilities under that agreement. Because the Senate version does not require the

Secretary to enter into such an agreement with the city, our estimate of the Senate version does not include the cost of providing additional assistance to the city.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Megan Carroll (for federal costs) and Marjorie Miller (for the state and local impact). This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.