



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

April 29, 2009

**H.R. 1385  
Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia  
Federal Recognition Act of 2009**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources  
on April 22, 2009*

**SUMMARY**

H.R. 1385 would provide federal recognition to six Indian tribes in Virginia—the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Eastern Division of the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe. Federal recognition would make the tribes eligible to receive benefits from various federal programs. CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would cost \$65 million over the 2010-2014 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary funds. Enacting H.R. 1385 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 1385 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 H.R. 1385 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 450 (community and regional development) and 550 (health).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2010-2014
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
<b>Bureau of Indian Affairs</b>						
Estimated Authorization Level	3	3	3	3	3	15
Estimated Outlays	2	3	3	3	3	14
<b>Indian Health Service</b>						
Estimated Authorization Level	10	10	10	11	11	52
Estimated Outlays	9	10	10	11	11	51
<b>Total Changes</b>						
Estimated Authorization Level	13	13	13	14	14	67
Estimated Outlays	11	13	13	14	14	65

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 1385 will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2009. H.R. 1385 would provide federal recognition to six Indian tribes in Virginia. Such recognition would allow the tribes, with membership totaling about 4,200 people, to receive benefits from various programs administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Indian Health Service (IHS). Based on the average per capita expenditures by those agencies for other Indian tribes, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1385 would cost \$65 million over the 2010-2014 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary funds.

### **Bureau of Indian Affairs**

BIA provides funding to federally recognized tribes for various purposes, including child welfare services, adult care, community development, and general assistance. In total, CBO estimates that providing BIA services would cost \$14 million over the 2010-2014 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary funds. This estimate is based on per capita expenditures for other federally recognized tribes located in the eastern United States.

## **Indian Health Service**

H.R. 1385 also would make members of the tribes eligible to receive health benefits from the IHS. Based on information from the IHS, CBO estimates that about 56 percent of tribal members—or about 2,400 people—would receive benefits each year. CBO assumes that the cost to serve those individuals would be similar to funding for current IHS beneficiaries—about \$4,000 per individual in 2009. Assuming appropriation of the necessary funds and adjusting for anticipated inflation, CBO estimates that IHS benefits for the tribes would cost \$51 million over the 2010-2014 period.

## **Other Federal Agencies**

In addition to BIA and IHS funding, certain Indian tribes also receive support from other federal programs within the Departments of Education, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, and Agriculture. Based on their status as tribes recognized by Virginia, the tribes specified in the bill are already eligible to receive funding from those departments. Thus, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1385 would not add to the cost of those programs.

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

H.R. 1385 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

### **ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

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