



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 27, 1999

### **S. 944**

#### **An act to amend Public Law 105-188 to provide for the mineral leasing of certain Indian lands in Oklahoma**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on September 22, 1999*

S. 944 would modify the conditions under which the Secretary of the Interior may approve a mineral lease or agreement that affects individually owned Indian land on certain former Indian reservations in Oklahoma. Under current law, approval of such leases requires the consent of all of the individuals that have an undivided interest in a property. This legislation would ease that requirement by making the Secretary's approval contingent upon the consent of a simple majority of individual owners. Once approved by the Secretary, an agreement would be binding on all owners of the property, and any receipts would be distributed in proportion to each owner's interest in the property.

Based on information from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, CBO estimates that implementing this act would not significantly affect discretionary spending. CBO estimates that implementing S. 944 would have no effect on direct spending or receipts, because any income resulting from agreements approved under this legislation would be paid directly to the Indian owners or to the appropriate tribal government. Hence, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply to the act.

S. 944 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.

On June 22, 1999, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 944, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on June 16, 1999. The two versions of the legislation are identical, as are the two cost estimates.

The CBO staff contact is Megan Carroll. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.