



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

September 18, 2001

H.R. 2385

Virgin River Dinosaur Footprint Preserve Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on September 12, 2001

H.R. 2385 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide up to \$500,000 to the city of St. George, Utah, to allow that city to purchase certain privately owned lands that contain paleontological resources. The bill would direct the Secretary to enter into a cooperative agreement with the city to manage those lands and resources and would authorize the Secretary to provide up to \$500,000 in additional funds to help the city meet its responsibilities under that agreement, provided that the city fully match any federal assistance. The bill also would authorize the Secretary to provide other financial and technical assistance to help the city to preserve and protect the resources.

Based on information from the Department of the Interior, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2385 would cost \$1 million during fiscal year 2002, assuming appropriation of the specified amounts. CBO also estimates that providing additional financial or technical assistance would not significantly increase the department's costs in any given year.

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 bill 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 assistance would be voluntary.

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