



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

December 1, 2005

**H.R. 4292**

**A bill to amend Public Law 107-153 to further encourage the negotiated settlement of tribal claims**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on November 16, 2005*

H.R. 4292 would effectively extend by six years the statute of limitations for certain tribal claims against the federal government related to federal management of tribal trust funds. Under the bill, tribes would have until December 31, 2011, to file such claims.

By extending the deadline for filing claims, H.R. 4292 could increase direct spending from the Judgment Fund for awards resulting from claims that might not otherwise be filed. Additionally, the bill could affect the timing of payments for claims that might be filed under current law. Enacting the bill also could lead to negotiated settlements rather than additional lawsuits against the federal government. CBO has no basis for estimating the bill's effect on the number and timing of tribal claims or settlements, and we therefore cannot estimate the timing or magnitude of any resulting change in federal spending. H.R. 4292 would not affect revenues.

H.R. 4292 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. Enacting this legislation could benefit Indian tribes by giving them additional time to file claims against the federal government.

On November 9, 2005, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 1892, a bill to amend Public Law 107-153 to modify a certain date, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on October 27, 2005. The two pieces of legislation are similar, and their effects on the federal budget would be identical.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mike Waters. The estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.