



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

June 5, 2008

**H.R. 5680**

**A bill to amend certain laws relating to Native Americans,  
and for other purposes**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on May 14, 2008.*

H.R. 5680 would amend various laws concerning Native Americans. CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Enacting H.R. 5680 would increase direct spending by roughly \$300,000 annually but would not affect revenues.

H.R. 5680 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Reform Mandates Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The provisions would benefit several Indian tribes.

The bill would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to make payments of between \$200,000 and \$350,000 annually to the reservation of Colorado River Indian Tribes for a new local energy department. The payments would be made from receipts earned from the sale of electricity generated by the federally owned Colorado River power system on that reservation.

Under current law, such receipts from electricity sales—an estimated \$10 million a year—may be used without further appropriation to operate and maintain generating facilities, transmission lines, and other infrastructure. Under the bill, receipts collected in excess of amounts needed for those purposes would be available, also without further appropriation, for payments to the tribe. Assuming that receipts will be available for the new energy department, CBO estimates that the additional direct spending under the bill would total around \$300,000 a year.

Other sections of the bill would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Those sections would:

- Authorize the Secretary to take lands into trust for the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida;
- Allow certain tribes to lease lands held in trust for more than 25-year terms; and
- Permit the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Michigan to lease, transfer, or convey, without the approval of the Secretary, any interest in land not held in trust by the United States.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Leigh Angres. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistance Director for Budget Analysis.