



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

October 30, 2002

S. 3059

**Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation
Judgment Fund Distribution Act of 2002**

As reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on October 15, 2002

S. 3059 would establish procedures for the distribution of about \$1 million in judgment awards held in trust funds on behalf of the members of the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation. Under current law, the funds cannot be spent or distributed by the tribes until the Congress approves a plan to allocate the funds. CBO estimates that enacting S. 3059 would have no effect on the federal budget.

The tribes were awarded over \$1 million in 1999 as compensation for the federal government's failure to pay interest earned on trust funds held by the Treasury on behalf of the tribe. S. 3059 would provide for payments to health, education, housing and social services programs of the tribe of the award plus interest earned on that amount—a total of about \$1 million.

These trust funds are held and managed in a fiduciary capacity by the federal government on behalf of Indian tribes and are treated in the budget as nonfederal entities. As a result, outlays were recorded on the budget when the judgments were awarded to the tribes and paid into those funds, and there is no budgetary impact when the money is distributed to the individual members of the tribes. Therefore, CBO estimates that enacting S. 3059 would have no effect on the federal budget.

S. 3059 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 CBO staff contact for this estimate is Lanette J. Walker. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.