



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 21, 2004

H.R. 3258 **Hibben Center Act**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on September 15, 2004

H.R. 3258 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease space for up to 40 years in the Hibben Center for Archaeological Research, a new facility built by the University of New Mexico. The bill would authorize the Secretary to enter into a lease agreement to provide for nominal annual rent, to make leasehold improvements related to the care of the archaeological collections, and to pay a pro-rata share of the annual operating expenses of the center. In addition, the bill would authorize the Secretary to contribute up to \$1.75 million towards the construction costs of the center and up to \$2.488 million for improvements. For these purposes, the bill would authorize the appropriation of whatever amounts are necessary.

Based on information provided by the National Park Service and assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3258 would cost the federal government approximately \$4.25 million over the next five years. Of this amount, we estimate that \$1.75 million would be paid to the university in 2005 for construction costs. The remaining \$2.488 million would be spent in 2004 or 2005 for leasehold improvements and furnishings. We estimate that annual costs (including payments for rent and possibly a federal contribution for center operating costs such as utilities) would be negligible.

H.R. 3258 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. The bill would provide a benefit to the University of New Mexico (a public university), and any costs to the university would be incurred voluntarily.

On July 10, 2003, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 643, the Hibben Center Act, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on June 25, 2003. The two versions of the Hibben Center Act are similar, and their estimated costs are about the same.

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