



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 2, 2003

S. 285 **Native American Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program** **Consolidation Act of 2003**

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on May 14, 2003

SUMMARY

S. 285 would authorize the appropriation of such sums as necessary for fiscal years 2004 through 2008 for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to provide assistance to Indian tribes to prevent alcohol and substance abuse. The bill also would permit Indian tribes to consolidate alcohol and substance abuse programs that are currently funded through a number of federal agencies.

CBO estimates that implementing S. 285 would cost \$38 million in 2004 and \$226 million over the 2004-2008 period, assuming the appropriation of the necessary funds. Almost all of those costs would be for BIA programs to prevent alcohol and substance abuse. The bill would have no effect on direct spending or revenues.

S. 285 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). By allowing tribes to consolidate programs for behavioral health care, including substance abuse, the bill would provide tribes with greater programmatic flexibility.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 285 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 450 (regional and community development) and 550 (health).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008

CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION

BIA Substance Abuse Programs					
Estimated Authorization Level	47	47	47	47	47
Estimated Outlays	37	47	47	47	47
Consolidation of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Programs					
Estimated Authorization Level	1	*	*	*	*
Estimated Outlays	1	*	*	*	*
Spending Under S. 285					
Estimated Authorization Level	48	47	47	47	47
Estimated Outlays	38	47	47	47	47

* = Less than \$500,000.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

BIA Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention

S. 285 would authorize the appropriation of such sums as are necessary through 2008 for the Bureau of Indian Affairs to provide assistance to Indian tribes to prevent alcohol and other substance abuse. Such programs would include law enforcement and judicial training, emergency shelters for youth, and juvenile detention centers. No funds were provided for this program in 2003, but based on the level of funding authorized for such programs in previous years, and information from the Bureau of Indian Affairs regarding demand for various programs under this title, CBO estimates that implementing these provisions would cost \$37 million in fiscal year 2004 and \$225 million over the 2004-2008 period.

Consolidation of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Programs

S. 285 would permit Indian tribes to consolidate alcohol and substance abuse programs that are currently funded through a number of federal agencies. Under the bill, tribes would submit plans to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for approval. HHS would approve or reject plans after consulting with the federal agencies that would be affected. During this approval process, these agencies would be able to waive statutory and

other requirements to enable tribes to implement their plans. CBO estimates that the costs of approving plans, monitoring their implementation, and providing technical assistance would cost about \$600,000 in 2004 and \$350,000 annually in later years.

S. 285 also would require HHS to submit reports on the bill's implementation within two and five years of enactment. CBO estimates that these reports would each cost less than \$100,000. The additional costs of the provisions in S. 285 that deal with program consolidation would be borne by the Indian Health Service (IHS), the lead agency for the bill's implementation.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 285 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. By allowing tribes to consolidate programs for behavioral health care, including substance abuse, the bill would provide tribes with greater programmatic flexibility.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Lanette Walker (BIA) and Eric Rollins (IHS)
Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Marjorie Miller
Impact on the Private Sector: Cecil McPherson

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Peter H. Fontaine
Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis