



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

January 7, 2010

H.R. 725

Indian Arts and Crafts Amendments Act of 2009

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources
on December 16, 2009*

H.R. 725 would allow any federal law enforcement officer to investigate the sale of counterfeit Indian art products. Under current law, only employees of the Federal Bureau of Investigation are authorized to conduct such investigations. Information from the Department of Justice (DOJ) indicates that very few cases relating to the sale of counterfeit Indian goods are investigated each year. CBO estimates that the cost of implementing H.R. 725 would not be significant because we expect that it would not appreciably change the workload of federal law enforcement officers or DOJ attorneys who would prosecute the cases.

H.R. 725 also would reduce the maximum penalties for offenders who market or sell counterfeit items priced at less than \$1,000. Under current law, the maximum penalties are the same for all offenders, regardless of the price of the goods. Criminal fines are recorded as revenues, deposited into the Crime Victims Fund, and later spent. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 725 could reduce the amount of revenues deposited into the fund and direct spending from that fund, but any such effects would be insignificant given the small number of cases involved.

H.R. 725 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

On May 5, 2009, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 151, the Indian Arts and Crafts Amendments Act of 2009, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on April 30, 2009. The House and Senate versions of the legislation are very similar, and the CBO cost estimates are the same.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Jeff LaFave. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.