



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 12, 2014

### **S. 1474**

### **Alaska Safe Families and Villages Act of 2014**

*As reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on August 26, 2014*

#### **SUMMARY**

S. 1474 would direct the Department of Justice (DOJ) to make grants to Alaskan Indian tribes to assist them in forming intergovernmental agreements with the state of Alaska. Such agreements would aim to reduce domestic violence and drug abuse and improve the criminal justice system. The bill also would authorize DOJ to provide Alaskan tribes with training and technical assistance on certain judicial matters.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1474 would cost \$14 million over the 2015-2019 period. Pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply to this legislation because it would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 1474 contains an intergovernmental mandate as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) by requiring states to give full faith and credit to court orders and decrees issued by some Alaskan tribes. CBO estimates that the cost to comply with that mandate would be small and well below the threshold established in that act (\$76 million in 2014, adjusted annually for inflation).

S. 1474 also contains a private-sector mandate as defined in UMRA by eliminating an existing right of action against the state of Alaska for the actions carried out by tribes participating in grant programs established by the bill. CBO estimates that the cost of complying with the mandate would fall below the private-sector threshold established in UMRA (\$152 million in 2014, adjusted annually for inflation).

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary effects of S. 1474 are shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 750 (administration of justice).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2015-2019
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Estimated Authorization Level	2	3	3	4	4	16
Estimated Outlays	1	2	3	4	4	14

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

Based on information from DOJ about the cost of establishing and maintaining new programs for Indian tribes in remote areas of Alaska, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1474 would require funding of \$16 million over the 2015-2019 period. We expect DOJ to use those funds to hire additional staff in Alaska, provide training and technical assistance to Indian tribes, and award grants to selected tribes. CBO assumes that the estimated amounts will be appropriated near the start of each fiscal year and that outlays will follow the historical rate of spending for similar activities.

**PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

## **ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

S. 1474 contains an intergovernmental mandate as defined in UMRA by requiring states to give full faith and credit to court orders and decrees issued by some Alaskan tribes. Some, but not all, states currently recognize the actions of tribal courts. Based on information from state representatives, CBO expects that the tribes would be issuing relatively few orders that would need to be enforced by other jurisdictions and the costs for states to enforce those orders would be small and well below the threshold established in that act (\$76 million in 2014, adjusted annually for inflation).

## **ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

S. 1474 would impose a private-sector mandate as defined in UMRA by eliminating an existing right of action against the state of Alaska. The legislation would authorize Indian tribes in Alaska that participate in the programs established by the bill to enforce certain state and tribal laws on Indian land. The legislation also would eliminate liability for the

state, or any political subdivision of the state, for the actions carried out by tribes participating in those programs. The cost of the mandate would be the value of forgone compensation for damages that would have been awarded to private entities in claims against the state of Alaska. Because of the relatively low cap on damages that can be awarded in actions against Alaska, CBO estimates that the annual cost of complying with the mandate would fall below the private-sector threshold established in UMRA (\$152 million in 2014, adjusted annually for inflation).

**ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

Federal Costs: Mark Grabowicz

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Melissa Merrell

Impact on the Private Sector: Marin Burnett

**ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:**

Theresa Gullo

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis