CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

March 26, 2015

S. 465
Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2015

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on March 18, 2015

SUMMARY

S. 465 would provide federal recognition to six Indian tribes in Virginia—the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Eastern Division of the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe. Federal recognition would make the tribes eligible to receive benefits from various federal programs.

CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would cost $78 million over the 2016-2020 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary funds. Enacting S. 465 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

S. 465 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary effect of S. 465 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 450 (community and regional development) and 550 (health).

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	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016-2020
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Department of the Interior						
Estimated Authorization Level	6	6	6	6	6	30
Estimated Outlays	4	6	6	6	6	29
Indian Health Service						
Estimated Authorization Level	9	10	10	10	11	50
Estimated Outlays	8	10	10	10	11	49
Total Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	15	16	16	17	17	81
Estimated Outlays	13	16	16	17	17	78

Note: Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 465 will be enacted in 2015, that the necessary amounts will be appropriated each year, and that outlays will follow historical patterns for similar assistance to other tribes.

S. 465 would provide federal recognition to six Indian tribes in Virginia. Such recognition would allow those tribes and about 4,800 tribal members (including members of other federally recognized tribes who live far from their own tribal service area, but close to the service area of the tribes that would be recognized under S. 465) to receive benefits from various programs administered by the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Indian Health Service (IHS). Based on the average per capita expenditures by those agencies for other Indian tribes, CBO estimates that implementing S. 465 would cost $78 million over the 2016-2020 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary funds.

Department of the Interior

DOI, primarily through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, provides funding to federally recognized tribes for various purposes, including child welfare services, adult care, community development, and general assistance. In total, CBO estimates that providing those services to the six tribes would cost $29 million over the 2016-2020 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary funds and adjusting for anticipated inflation. This estimate is based on current per capita expenditures of around $1,200 for other federally recognized tribes located in the eastern states.

Indian Health Service

S. 465 also would make members of the tribes eligible to receive health benefits from the IHS. Based on information from the IHS, CBO estimates that about 55 percent of tribal members—or about 2,650 people—would receive benefits each year. CBO assumes that the cost to serve those individuals would be similar to costs for current IHS beneficiaries—about $3,300 per individual in 2015. Assuming appropriation of the necessary funds and adjusting for anticipated inflation, CBO estimates that IHS benefits for the tribes would cost $49 million over the 2016-2020 period.

Other Federal Agencies

In addition to DOI and IHS funding, certain Indian tribes also receive support from other federal programs within the Departments of Education, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, and Agriculture. Based on their status as tribes recognized by Virginia, the tribes specified in the bill are already eligible to receive support from those departments. Thus, CBO estimates that implementing S. 465 would not increase spending from those agencies'programs.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 465 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Martin von Gnechten—Bureau of Indian Affairs
Robert Stewart—Indian Health Service

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

Impact on the Private Sector: Amy Petz

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Theresa Gullo
Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis