



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

March 7, 2017

S. 254
Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act
*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
on February 8, 2017*

SUMMARY

S. 254 would authorize, through 2022, a grant program to preserve Native American languages. CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$53 million over the 2017-2022 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting S. 254 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

S. 254 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. 254 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 500 (education, training, employment, and social services).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars						2017-
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2022
INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION							
Estimated Authorization Level	0	13	13	14	14	14	68
Estimated Outlays	0	1	12	13	13	14	53

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 254 will be enacted before the beginning of fiscal year 2018, that the estimated amounts will be appropriated each year, and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns.

The bill would authorize the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary for the Native American Language Preservation and Maintenance grant program for each year from 2018 through 2022. It would establish a period of availability of five years for those grants and would allow grant recipients to serve fewer children per grant than previously authorized.

The authorization of the Native languages program expired at the end of fiscal year 2012. However, the Congress has continued to appropriate funds, including about \$13 million in 2016 for grants under that program. Assuming continued appropriations at that level and accounting for anticipated inflation, CBO estimates that implementing S. 254 would cost \$53 million over the 2017-2022 period.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INCREASE IN LONG-TERM DIRECT SPENDING AND DEFICITS

CBO estimates that enacting S. 254 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 254 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. Tribal agencies would benefit from grants authorized in the bill for ensuring the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages.

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