



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

December 7, 2010

H.R. 5811

**An act to amend the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Alabama and
Coushatta Indian Tribes of Texas Restoration Act
to allow the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Tribe
to determine blood quantum requirement
for membership in that tribe**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
on November 18, 2010*

H.R. 5811 would amend the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Alabama and Coushatta Indian Tribes of Texas Restoration Act to eliminate the requirement that individuals have a blood quantum level of at least one-eighth to qualify for tribal membership. This legislation would allow the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo tribe to establish its own blood quantum requirement for determining membership. Based on information from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 5811 would cost \$7 million over the 2011-2015 period. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

H.R. 5811 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Enacting this legislation would benefit the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo tribe.

Based on information from BIA and the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo tribe, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 5811 would lead to an increase in the tribal population of about 700 members in 2011. Those additional members of the tribe would be eligible for services from the Indian Health Service (IHS) and BIA. Such services are available to members of federally recognized Indian tribes.

Based on information from IHS, CBO estimates that about 55 percent of new tribal members—or about 400 people—would receive benefits each year. CBO expects that the cost to serve those individuals would be similar to that for current beneficiaries—about \$2,800 per person in 2010. In addition, based on information provided by BIA, CBO expects that additional costs for services provided by that agency would total about \$1 million over the 2011-2015 period. In total, CBO estimates that implementing

H.R. 5811 would cost between \$1 million and \$2 million a year over that period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Jeff LaFave (for BIA programs) and Robert Stewart (for IHS programs). This estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.