



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

November 20, 2017

S. 1223

Klamath Tribe Judgment Fund Repeal Act

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on October 25, 2017

S. 1223 would repeal the Klamath Tribe Judgment Fund Act, which authorizes the Department of the Interior (DOI) to establish and maintain a fund from which payments may be disbursed to Klamath Tribe members to satisfy any judgments obtained by the tribe. The bill also would require any amounts remaining in the fund upon its closure to be disbursed to the Klamath Tribe.

According to information provided by DOI, about \$600,000 remains in the fund. That money is slated to be paid to almost 200 members of the Klamath Tribe or to their next of kin, none of whom DOI has been able to locate. Assuming enactment of S. 1223 near the beginning of 2018, CBO estimates that the \$600,000 in the fund would be disbursed directly to the government of the Klamath Tribe during fiscal year 2018. Payments to certain tribal trust funds that are held and managed in a fiduciary capacity by the federal government on behalf of Indian tribes are treated as payments to a nonfederal entity. Thus, the balances remaining in the Klamath Tribe Judgment Fund were previously recorded as budget authority and outlays at the time those balances were deposited into the fund, and subsequent disbursement of those funds would have no effect on the federal budget.

Enacting S. 1223 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting S. 1223 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

S. 1223 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Robert Reese. The estimate was approved by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.