



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

June 19, 2017

**S. 691**

**Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia  
Federal Recognition Act of 2017**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on May 17, 2017*

**SUMMARY**

S. 691 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 \$67 million over the 2018-2022 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting S. 691 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting S. 691 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

S. 691 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector impacts as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

**ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary effect of S. 691 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 450 (community and regional development) and 550 (health).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars						2017- 2022
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
<b>INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>							
Department of the Interior							
Estimated Authorization Level	0	6	6	6	6	7	31
Estimated Outlays	0	5	6	6	6	7	30
Indian Health Service							
Estimated Authorization Level	0	7	7	7	8	8	37
Estimated Outlays	0	7	7	7	8	8	37
Total Increases							
Estimated Authorization Level	0	13	13	13	14	15	68
Estimated Outlays	0	12	13	13	14	15	67

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 691 will be enacted before the end of 2017, that the necessary amounts will be provided each year, and that outlays will follow historical patterns for similar assistance to other tribes.

S. 691 would provide federal recognition to six Indian tribes in Virginia. Such recognition would allow those tribes and about 4,700 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. 691) to receive benefits from various programs administered by the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Indian Health Service (IHS).

### **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 other general assistance. In total, CBO estimates that providing those services to the six tribes that would be recognized under S. 691 would cost \$30 million over the 2018-2022 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts and accounting for anticipated inflation. That estimate reflects per capita expenditures for services provided to the newly recognized tribes that would be similar to those for other federally recognized tribes located in the eastern states. (In 2015, the most recent year for which historical information on such spending is available, per capita expenditures for eastern tribes averaged about \$1,200.)

## **Indian Health Service**

S. 691 also would make members of the tribes newly recognized under S. 691 eligible to receive health benefits from the IHS. Based on an analysis of information from the IHS, CBO estimates that about 55 percent of tribal members—or about 2,600 people—would receive benefits each year. CBO expects that the cost to serve those individuals would be similar to the costs for current IHS beneficiaries—about \$2,650 per individual in 2017. Assuming appropriation of the necessary funds and accounting for anticipated inflation, CBO estimates that health benefits for those tribes would cost \$37 million over the 2018-2022 period.

## **Other Federal Agencies**

In addition to assistance from DOI and IHS, certain Indian tribes also receive support from other federal programs within the Departments of Education, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, and Agriculture. Because those six tribes specified in the bill are recognized by Virginia, they are already eligible to receive support from those federal departments. Thus, CBO estimates that implementing S. 691 would not authorize additional spending by those departments.

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

## **INCREASE IN LONG-TERM DIRECT SPENDING AND DEFICITS**

CBO estimates that enacting S. 691 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. 691 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector impacts as defined in UMRA.

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