

### At a Glance

## S. 51, Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians Restoration Act of 2019

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on January 29, 2019

Millions of Dollars	Direct Spending	Revenues	Deficit Effect	Spending Subject to Appropriation
2019	0	0	0	0
2019-2024	0	0	0	41
2019-2029	0	0	0	n.a.

  

Pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	Yes, Under Threshold
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

n.a. = not applicable

**The bill would**

- Provide federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians in Montana
- Extend services and benefits to the tribe provided by various federal agencies, including the Department of the Interior and the Indian Health Service
- Direct the Secretary of the Interior to take 200 acres of land into trust for the benefit of the tribe

**Estimated budgetary effects would primarily stem from**

- Providing benefits to the newly recognized tribe

**Detailed estimate begins on the next page.**



## Bill Summary

S. 51 would provide federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana. That recognition would make the tribe eligible to receive benefits from various federal programs.

## Estimated Federal Cost

The estimated budgetary effect of S. 51 is shown in Table 1. The costs of the legislation fall within budget functions 450 (community and regional development) and 550 (health).

**Table 1.**  
**Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation under S. 51**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2019-2024
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Department of the Interior							
Estimated Authorization	0	3	3	4	4	4	18
Estimated Outlays	0	2	3	4	4	4	17
Indian Health Service							
Estimated Authorization	0	4	5	5	5	5	24
Estimated Outlays	0	4	5	5	5	5	24
Total Changes							
Estimated Authorization	0	7	8	9	9	9	42
Estimated Outlays	0	6	8	9	9	9	41

## Basis of Estimate

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 51 will be enacted in fiscal year 2019 and that the necessary amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year.

Providing federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana would allow the tribe and about 2,600 tribal members to receive benefits under 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 general assistance. Based on current per capita expenditures of around \$1,200 for other federally recognized tribes in the central states and accounting for anticipated inflation, CBO estimates that providing those services to the Little Shell Tribe would cost \$17 million over the 2019-2024 period.

### Indian Health Service

The IHS also provides members of federally recognized tribes with health benefits. Using information from the IHS, CBO estimates that about 55 percent of the tribe's members—or about 1,400 people—would receive benefits each year. CBO expects that the per capita cost would be similar to the costs for



current IHS beneficiaries—about \$2,875 in 2019. Accounting for anticipated inflation, CBO estimates, providing those benefits would cost \$24 million over the 2019-2024 period.

### **Other Federal Agencies**

Certain Indian tribes also receive support from other federal programs within the Departments of Agriculture, Education, Housing and Urban Development, and Labor. Because the tribe is currently recognized by the state of Montana, the tribe already receives funding from those departments. Thus, CBO estimates that enacting S. 51 would not increase costs under those programs.

**Pay-As-You-Go Considerations:** None.

**Increase in Long-Term Direct Spending and Deficits:** None.

### **Mandates**

S. 51 contains an intergovernmental mandate as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) because it would authorize the Secretary of Interior to acquire and take into trust 200 acres of land for the Little Shell Tribe. Because that land would be exempt from state and local taxes, the provision would impose an intergovernmental mandate. Given the small amount of land, CBO estimates that the forgone tax revenue to state and local governments would be small and well below the threshold established for intergovernmental mandates (\$82 million in 2019, adjusted annually for inflation).

S. 51 contains no private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

### **Estimate Prepared By**

Federal Costs: Jon Sperl (Department of the Interior)  
Robert Stewart (Indian Health Service)

Mandates: Rachel Austin

### **Estimate Reviewed By**

Kim Cawley  
Chief, Natural and Physical Resources Cost Estimates Unit

Susan Willie  
Chief, Mandates Unit

H. Samuel Papenfuss  
Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis