

H.R. 1240, Winnebago Land Transfer Act of 2023

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on May 1, 2024

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars		2024	2024-2029	2024-2034
Direct Spending (Outlays)		0	0	0
Revenues		0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit		0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)		*	*	not estimated
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035?	No	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?		No
	Mandate Effects			
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?		Yes, Under Threshold
		Contains private-sector mandate?		No
* = between zero and \$500,000.				

H.R. 1240 would transfer administrative jurisdiction of about 1,500 acres of land in Woodbury County and Monona County, Iowa, from the Army Corps of Engineers to the Bureau of Indian Affairs to take such lands into trust for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. The act would prohibit certain types of gaming on that land. Using information from the agencies, CBO estimates that the administrative costs to implement H.R. 1240 would not be significant; any related spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The transfer of that land would reduce the number of acres in the Missouri River Recovery Program, an effort to compensate for losses of fish and wildlife habitat resulting from past development. The license between the Corps and Iowa expressly prohibits any liability against the federal government if lawmakers enact legislation conveying the land to the tribe.

H.R.1240 would impose an intergovernmental mandate as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) on the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska by prohibiting gaming on tribal land in Iowa. That prohibition would apply to land being placed into trust for the benefit of the tribe under the act. Because gaming on such land is currently allowed under federal law, the proposed ban would be a mandate. However, because the tribe has no plans to conduct gaming on the land, the cost of the mandate would be small and below the threshold established in UMRA (\$100 million in 2024, adjusted annually for inflation).

See also

[CBO's Cost Estimates Explained](#), [CBO Describes Its Cost-Estimating Process](#), [Glossary](#)



The act contains no private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

On November 8, 2023, CBO transmitted a [cost estimate for H.R. 1240](#), the Winnebago Land Transfer Act of 2023, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on June 13, 2023. The two bills are similar, and CBO's estimates of their budgetary effects are the same.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Julia Aman (for federal costs) and Rachel Austin (for mandates). The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phillip L. Swagel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that curves to the right.

Phillip L. Swagel
Director, Congressional Budget Office