



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 20, 2017

H.R. 1491

Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Land Affirmation Act of 2017

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources July 26, 2017

H.R. 1491 would affirm the decision made by the Department of the Interior (DOI) to take into trust approximately 1,400 acres of land owned by the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians (Chumash Tribe) in Santa Barbara County, California. Under the bill, DOI would hold the title to that land for the benefit of the tribe. The bill would prohibit certain types of gaming on those lands and end any administrative appeals of DOI's decision about this property. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would have no significant budgetary effects related to holding the land in trust.

Enacting H.R. 1491 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1491 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

H.R. 1491 would impose intergovernmental and private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). CBO estimates that the cost of the mandates would be insignificant and thus would fall below the annual thresholds established in UMRA for intergovernmental and private-sector mandates (\$78 million and \$156 million in 2017, respectively, adjusted annually for inflation).

The bill would impose an intergovernmental mandate by preempting the authority of state and local governments to tax land taken into trust for the Chumash Tribe. Information from Santa Barbara County about taxes and other receipts associated with the land indicates that such revenues total less than \$500,000 annually.

The bill also would impose an intergovernmental and private-sector mandate by eliminating the ability of public and private entities to appeal the federal government's decision to take land into trust for the benefit of the Chumash Tribe. By ratifying DOI's decision to take the land into trust, the bill would effectively extinguish any existing or future appeal of that decision. The costs of the mandates would be the value of forgone compensation and settlements associated with such appeals if they would have been successful under current law; however, because no monetary award is available for such

challenges to the administrative procedures and decisions of the federal government, CBO expects that the mandate would impose no costs.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Robert Reese (for federal costs), Rachel Austin (for intergovernmental mandates), and Amy Petz (for private-sector mandates). The estimate was approved by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.