

(Pub. L. 98-134, § 6, Oct. 18, 1983, 97 Stat. 855.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

Act of April 11, 1968, referred to in text, is Pub. L. 90-284, Apr. 11, 1968, 82 Stat. 73, as amended, known as the Civil Rights Act of 1968. Title IV of Pub. L. 90-284 is classified generally to subchapter III (§1321 et seq.) of chapter 15 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 3601 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, and Tables.

### § 1756. Practice and procedure

#### (a) Constitutionality

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the constitutionality of this subchapter may not be drawn into question in any action unless such question has been raised in—

(1) a pleading contained in a complaint filed before the end of the one-hundred-and-eighty-day period beginning on October 18, 1983, or

(2) an answer contained in a reply to a complaint before the end of such period.

#### (b) Jurisdiction

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, exclusive jurisdiction of any action in which the constitutionality of this subchapter is drawn into question is vested in the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut.

#### (c) Removal of actions

Any action to which subsection (a) of this section applies and which is brought in the court of any State may be removed by the defendant to the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut.

#### (d) Jurisdictional acts; implied consent to sue the United States

Except as provided in this subchapter, no provision of this subchapter shall be construed to constitute a jurisdictional act, to confer jurisdiction to sue, or to grant implied consent to any Indian, Indian nation, or tribe or band of Indians to sue the United States or any of its officers with respect to the claims extinguished by the operation of this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 98-134, § 7, Oct. 18, 1983, 97 Stat. 855.)

#### CODIFICATION

In subsec. (a)(1), “October 18, 1983” substituted for “the date of the enactment of this Act”, meaning the date of approval of Pub. L. 98-134.

### § 1757. Restriction against alienation

(a) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, lands within the reservation which are held in trust by the Secretary for the benefit of the Tribe or which are subject to a Federal restraint against alienation at any time after October 18, 1983, shall be subject to the laws of the United States relating to Indian lands, including section 177 of this title.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, the Tribe may lease lands for any term of years to the Mashantucket Pequot Housing Authority, or any successor in interest to such Authority.

(Pub. L. 98-134, § 8, Oct. 18, 1983, 97 Stat. 855.)

#### CODIFICATION

In subsec. (a), “October 18, 1983” substituted for “the date of the enactment of this Act”, meaning the date of approval of Pub. L. 98-134.

### § 1757a. Extensions of leases of certain land by Mashantucket Pequot (Western) Tribe

#### (a) In general

Any lease of restricted land of the Mashantucket Pequot (Western) Tribe (referred to in this section as the “Tribe”) entered into on behalf of the Tribe by the tribal corporation of the Tribe chartered pursuant to section 477 of this title may include an option to renew the lease for not more than 2 additional terms, each of which shall not exceed 25 years, subject only to the approval of the tribal council of the Tribe.

#### (b) Liability of United States

The United States shall not be liable to any party for any loss resulting from a renewal of a lease entered into pursuant to subsection (a).

#### (c) Prohibition on gaming activities

No entity may conduct any gaming activity (within the meaning of section 4 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2703)) pursuant to a claim of inherent authority or any Federal law (including the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) and any regulations promulgated by the Secretary of the Interior or the National Indian Gaming Commission pursuant to that Act) on any land that is leased with an option to renew the lease in accordance with this section.

(Pub. L. 110-228, § 1, May 8, 2008, 122 Stat. 753.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, referred to in subsec. (c), is Pub. L. 100-497, Oct. 17, 1988, 102 Stat. 2467, which is classified principally to chapter 29 (§2701 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2701 of this title and Tables.

#### CODIFICATION

Section was not enacted as part of the Mashantucket Pequot Indian Claims Settlement Act which comprises this subchapter.

### § 1758. Extension of Federal recognition and privileges

#### (a) Applicability of United States laws and regulations

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, Federal recognition is extended to the Tribe. Except as otherwise provided in this subchapter, all laws and regulations of the United States of general application to Indians or Indian nations, tribes or bands of Indians which are not inconsistent with any specific provision of this subchapter shall be applicable to the Tribe.

#### (b) Filing of organic governing document and amendments

The Tribe shall file with the Secretary a copy of its organic governing document and any amendments thereto. Such instrument must be consistent with the terms of this subchapter and the Act to Implement the Settlement of the

Mashantucket Pequot Indian Land Claim as enacted by the State of Connecticut and approved June 9, 1982.

**(c) Eligibility for services and benefits**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Tribe and members of the Tribe shall be eligible for all Federal services and benefits furnished to federally recognized Indian tribes as of October 18, 1983.

(Pub. L. 98-134, §9, Oct. 18, 1983, 97 Stat. 855.)

CODIFICATION

In subsec. (c), "October 18, 1983" substituted for "the date of enactment of this Act", meaning the date of approval of Pub. L. 98-134.

**§ 1759. General discharge and release of State of Connecticut**

Except as expressly provided herein, this subchapter shall constitute a general discharge and release of all obligations of the State of Connecticut and all of its political subdivisions, agencies, departments, and all of the officers or employees thereof arising from any treaty or agreement with, or on behalf of the Tribe or the United States as trustee therefor.

(Pub. L. 98-134, §10, Oct. 18, 1983, 97 Stat. 856.)

**§ 1760. Separability**

In the event that any provision of section 1753 of this title is held invalid, it is the intent of Congress that the entire subchapter be invalidated. In the event that any other section or provision of this subchapter is held invalid, it is the intent of Congress that the remaining sections of this subchapter shall continue in full force and effect.

(Pub. L. 98-134, §11, Oct. 18, 1983, 97 Stat. 856.)

SUBCHAPTER V—MASSACHUSETTS INDIAN LAND CLAIMS SETTLEMENT

**§ 1771. Congressional findings and declaration of policy**

The Congress hereby finds and declares that—

(1) there is pending before the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts a lawsuit that involves Indian claims to certain public lands within the town of Gay Head, Massachusetts;

(2) the pendency of this lawsuit has resulted in severe economic hardships for the residents of the town of Gay Head by clouding the titles to much of the land in the town, including land not involved in the lawsuit;

(3) the Congress shares with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the parties to the lawsuit a desire to remove all clouds on titles resulting from such Indian land claim;<sup>1</sup>

(4) the parties to the lawsuit and others interested in settlement of Indian land claims within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts executed a Settlement Agreement which, to become effective, requires implementing legislation by the Congress of the United States and the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts;

(5) the town of Gay Head has agreed to contribute approximately 50 percent of the land involved in this settlement;

(6) the State of Massachusetts has agreed to provide up to \$2,250,000 to be used for the purchase of land to be held in trust by the Secretary for the use and benefit of the Wampanoag Tribal Council of Gay Head, Inc.; and

(7) the Secretary has acknowledged the existence of the Wampanoag Tribal Council of Gay Head, Inc. as an Indian tribe and Congress hereby ratifies and confirms that existence as an Indian tribe with a government to government relationship with the United States.

(Pub. L. 100-95, §2, Aug. 18, 1987, 101 Stat. 704.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 11 of Pub. L. 100-95 provided that:

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), this Act [enacting this subchapter] shall take effect upon the date of enactment [Aug. 18, 1987].

"(b) EXCEPTION.—Section 4 [25 U.S.C. 1771b] shall take effect upon the date on which the title of all of the private settlement lands provided for in this Act to the Wampanoag Tribal Council of Gay Head, Inc. is transferred. The fact of such transfer, and the date thereof, shall be certified and recorded by the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

SHORT TITLE

Section 1 of Pub. L. 100-95 provided that: "This Act [enacting this subchapter] may be cited as the 'Wampanoag Tribal Council of Gay Head, Inc., Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1987'."

**§ 1771a. Gay Head Indian claims settlement fund**

**(a) Fund established**

There is hereby established within the Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the "Wampanoag Tribal Council of Gay Head, Inc. Claims Settlement Fund". Amounts in the fund shall be available to the Secretary to carry out the purposes of this subchapter.

**(b) Authorization for appropriation**

There is hereby authorized to be appropriated \$2,250,000 for such fund to remain available until expended.

**(c) State contribution required**

Amounts may be expended from the fund only upon deposit by the State of Massachusetts into the fund of an amount equal to that amount to be expended by the United States so that both the United States and the State of Massachusetts bear one-half of the cost of the acquisition of lands under section 1771d of this title.

(Pub. L. 100-95, §3, Aug. 18, 1987, 101 Stat. 704.)

**§ 1771b. Approval of prior transfers and extinguishment of aboriginal title and claims of Gay Head Indians**

**(a) Approval of prior transfers**

(1) Any transfer before August 18, 1987, of land or natural resources now located anywhere within the United States from, by, or on behalf of the Wampanoag Tribal Council of Gay Head, Inc., or (2) any transfer before August 18, 1987, by, from, or on behalf of any Indian, Indian nation, or tribe or band of Indians, of any land or

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be "claims;".