

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;¹

(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

¹ So in original. Probably should be "claims;".