

brance before the transfer of title to such tribal property as provided in section 695 of this title without the approval of the Secretary. Any contract made in violation of this section shall be null and void.

(Aug. 13, 1954, ch. 733, § 4, 68 Stat. 725.)

### § 695. Tribal property

#### (a) Procedure for transfer

Upon request of a tribe, the Secretary is authorized within two years from August 13, 1954, to transfer to a corporation or other legal entity organized by the tribe in a form satisfactory to the Secretary title to all or any part of the tribal property, real and personal, or to transfer to one or more trustees designated by the tribe and approved by the Secretary, title to all or any part of such property to be held in trust for management or liquidation purposes under such terms and conditions as may be specified by the tribe and approved by the Secretary, or to sell all or any part of such property and make a pro rata distribution of the proceeds of sale among the members of the tribe after deducting, in his discretion, reasonable costs of sale and distribution.

#### (b) Property not transferred in accordance with recognized procedure; election to retain property

Title to any tribal property that is not transferred in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall be transferred by the Secretary to one or more trustees designated by him for the liquidation and distribution of assets among the members of the tribe under such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe: *Provided*, That the trust agreement shall provide for the termination of the trust not more than three years from the date of such transfer unless the term of the trust is extended by order of a judge of a court of record designated in the trust agreement: *Provided further*, That the trust agreement shall provide that at any time before the sale of tribal property by the trustees the tribe may notify the trustees that it elects to retain such property and to transfer title thereto to a corporation, other legal entity, or trustee in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, and that the trustees shall transfer title to such property in accordance with the notice from the tribe if it is approved by the Secretary.

#### (c) Compensation of agents or attorneys

The Secretary shall not approve any form of organization pursuant to subsection (a) of this section that provides for the transfer of stock or an undivided share in corporate assets as compensation for the services of agents or attorneys unless such transfer is based upon an appraisal of tribal assets that is satisfactory to the Secretary.

#### (d) Selection of trustees; approval by Secretary

When approving or disapproving the selection of trustees in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, and when designating trustees pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary shall give due regard to the laws of the State of Oregon that relate to the selection of trustees.

(Aug. 13, 1954, ch. 733, § 5, 68 Stat. 725.)

### § 696. Individual property

#### (a) Transfer of unrestricted control

The Secretary is authorized and directed to transfer within two years after August 13, 1954 to each member of each tribe unrestricted control of funds or other personal property held in trust for such member by the United States.

#### (b) Removal of restrictions on sales or encumbrances; fee simple title

All restrictions on the sale or encumbrance of trust or restricted land owned by members of the tribes (including allottees, purchasers, heirs, and devisees, either adult or minor) are removed two years after August 13, 1954 and the patents or deeds under which titles are then held shall pass the titles in fee simple, subject to any valid encumbrance. The titles to all interests in trust or restricted land acquired by members of the tribes by devise or inheritance two years or more after August 13, 1954 shall vest in such members in fee simple, subject to any valid encumbrance.

#### (c) Multiple land ownership; partition; sale; election to purchase; unlocated owners

Prior to the time provided in subsection (d)<sup>1</sup> of this section for the removal of restrictions on land owned by more than one member of a tribe, the Secretary may—

(1) upon request of any of the owners, partition the land and issue to each owner a patent or deed for his individual share that shall become unrestricted two years from August 13, 1954;

(2) upon request of any of the owners and a finding by the Secretary that partition of all or any part of the land is not practicable, cause all or any part of the land to be sold at not less than the appraised value thereof and distribute the proceeds of sale to the owners: *Provided*, That any one or more of the owners may elect before a sale to purchase the other interests in the land at not less than the appraised value thereof, and the purchaser shall receive an unrestricted patent or deed to the land; and

(3) if the whereabouts of none of the owners can be ascertained, cause such lands to be sold and deposit the proceeds of sale in the Treasury of the United States for safekeeping.

(Aug. 13, 1954, ch. 733, § 6, 68 Stat. 725.)

### § 697. Property of deceased members

#### (a) Federal laws not applicable to probate

The Act of June 25, 1910 (36 Stat. 855), the Act of February 14, 1913 (37 Stat. 678), and other Acts amendatory thereto shall not apply to the probate of the trust and restricted property of the members of the tribes who die six months or more after August 13, 1954.

#### (b) State, etc., laws applicable to probate

The laws of the several States, Territories, possessions, and the District of Columbia with respect to the probate of wills, the determina-

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be subsection "(b)".