

**§ 478a. Procedure**

In any election heretofore or hereafter held under the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984) [25 U.S.C. 461 et seq.], on the question of excluding a reservation from the application of the said Act or on the question of adopting a constitution and bylaws or amendments thereto or on the question of ratifying a charter, the vote of a majority of those actually voting shall be necessary and sufficient to effectuate such exclusion, adoption, or ratification, as the case may be: *Provided, however*, That in each instance the total vote cast shall not be less than 30 per centum of those entitled to vote.

(June 15, 1935, ch. 260, § 1, 49 Stat. 378.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

Act of June 18, 1934, referred to in text, popularly known as the Indian Reorganization Act, is classified generally to this subchapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 461 of this title and Tables.

**§ 478b. Application of laws and treaties**

All laws, general and special, and all treaty provisions affecting any Indian reservation which has voted or may vote to exclude itself from the application of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984) [25 U.S.C. 461 et seq.], shall be deemed to have been continuously effective as to such reservation, notwithstanding the passage of said Act of June 18, 1934. Nothing in the Act of June 18, 1934, shall be construed to abrogate or impair any rights guaranteed under any existing treaty with any Indian tribe, where such tribe voted not to exclude itself from the application of said Act.

(June 15, 1935, ch. 260, § 4, 49 Stat. 378.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

Act of June 18, 1934, referred to in text, popularly known as the Indian Reorganization Act, is classified generally to this subchapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 461 of this title and Tables.

**§ 479. Definitions**

The term "Indian" as used in this Act shall include all persons of Indian descent who are members of any recognized Indian tribe now under Federal jurisdiction, and all persons who are descendants of such members who were, on June 1, 1934, residing within the present boundaries of any Indian reservation, and shall further include all other persons of one-half or more Indian blood. For the purposes of this Act, Eskimos and other aboriginal peoples of Alaska shall be considered Indians. The term "tribe" wherever used in this Act shall be construed to refer to any Indian tribe, organized band, pueblo, or the Indians residing on one reservation. The words "adult Indians" wherever used in this Act shall be construed to refer to Indians who have attained the age of twenty-one years.

(June 18, 1934, ch. 576, § 19, 48 Stat. 988.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

This Act, referred to in text, is act June 18, 1934, which is classified generally to this subchapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see

Short Title note set out under section 461 of this title and Tables.

## ADMISSION OF ALASKA AS STATE

Admission of Alaska into the Union was accomplished Jan. 3, 1959, on issuance of Proc. No. 3269, Jan. 3, 1959, 24 F.R. 81, 73 Stat. c16, as required by sections 1 and 8(c) of Pub. L. 85-508, July 7, 1958, 72 Stat. 339, set out as notes preceding section 21 of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions.

**§ 479a. Definitions**

For the purposes of this title:<sup>1</sup>

(1) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) The term "Indian tribe" means any Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village or community that the Secretary of the Interior acknowledges to exist as an Indian tribe.

(3) The term "list" means the list of recognized tribes published by the Secretary pursuant to section 479a-1 of this title.

(Pub. L. 103-454, title I, § 102, Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4791.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

This title, referred to in introductory provisions, is title I of Pub. L. 103-454, Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4791, which enacted this section, section 479a-1 of this title, and provisions set out as notes below. For complete classification of this title to the Code, see Short Title note below and Tables.

## SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 103-454, title I, § 101, Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4791, provided that: "This title [enacting this section and section 479a-1 of this title and provisions set out below] may be cited as the 'Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994'."

## CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS

Pub. L. 103-454, title I, § 103, Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4791, provided that: "The Congress finds that—

"(1) the Constitution, as interpreted by Federal case law, invests Congress with plenary authority over Indian Affairs;

"(2) ancillary to that authority, the United States has a trust responsibility to recognized Indian tribes, maintains a government-to-government relationship with those tribes, and recognizes the sovereignty of those tribes;

"(3) Indian tribes presently may be recognized by Act of Congress; by the administrative procedures set forth in part 83 of the Code of Federal Regulations denominated 'Procedures for Establishing that an American Indian Group Exists as an Indian Tribe;' or by a decision of a United States court;

"(4) a tribe which has been recognized in one of these manners may not be terminated except by an Act of Congress;

"(5) Congress has expressly repudiated the policy of terminating recognized Indian tribes, and has actively sought to restore recognition to tribes that previously have been terminated;

"(6) the Secretary of the Interior is charged with the responsibility of keeping a list of all federally recognized tribes;

"(7) the list published by the Secretary should be accurate, regularly updated, and regularly published, since it is used by the various departments and agencies of the United States to determine the eligibility of certain groups to receive services from the United States; and

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.