

sets purchased with the net rents, profits, and other revenues aforesaid or with the net income from the investment thereof shall be made except to those enrolled members who are entitled to an equalization allotment or to a cash payment in satisfaction thereof under this subchapter or, in the case of such a member who died after September 21, 1959, to those entitled to participate in his estate, and any such distribution shall be per capita to living enrolled members and per stirpes to participants in the estate of a deceased member."

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1998 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 105-308 applicable as if it had been enacted on Mar. 31, 1983, see section 4(b) of Pub. L. 105-308, set out as an Expiration of Restriction on Distribution of Revenues From Mineral Springs Parcel note under section 951 of this title.

§ 954. Powers and duties of guardians

(a) Appointment and continuance in office; notice to Secretary of State court proceedings; appearance

No guardian or other fiduciary shall be appointed under State law for the estate of any member of the band, or continued in office, except with approval of the Secretary: *Provided*, That no conservator for any member of the band shall be appointed under State law or continued in office after the effective date of this Act, unless the individual Indian concerned, with the approval of the Secretary, personally petitions for the appointment or continuation of such appointment. The Secretary shall be given notice of all proceedings in the State court with respect to the estate of any member of the band which is being administered, and he may at any time appear as a party in such proceedings, and may exercise all rights accorded to a party under State law.

(b) Management and disposition of trust property and property subject to restrictions against alienation by guardians, conservators, or fiduciaries; approved activities; approval of activities

No guardian, conservator or other fiduciary appointed under State law shall, in his official capacity, participate in the management or disposition of any property or interest therein which is held in trust by the United States for a member of the band or is subject to restrictions against alienation imposed by the laws of the United States, execute or approve any use, expenditure, investment, deposit, or disposition of such property or interest therein, or proceeds therefrom, or receive any fee or other compensation for services hereafter performed with respect to such property or interest therein. The provisions of this subsection shall not preclude any such person, in his private capacity, from participating in the management or disposition of such property or interest therein with the specific approval of the Secretary of the Interior. Actions with respect to the use, expenditure, investment, deposit, or disposition of such property or interests therein, or proceeds therefrom, shall be valid and efficacious in all respects without participation of affirmation by any guardian, conservator, or other fiduciary appointed under State law.

(c) Reports by guardians; failure or refusal to report; fraudulent, capricious, arbitrary or grossly erroneous reports; prosecution; appropriate relief

The Secretary, at any time, may require any guardian, conservator, or other fiduciary appointed under State law for a member of the band to submit a full and complete report concerning his handling of the estate during the preceding six years. If any person or entity refused to do so by the Secretary fails or refuses to so report, or, if having reported, the Secretary concludes that any action connected therewith is fraudulent, or capricious or arbitrary or so grossly erroneous as necessarily to imply bad faith, he may request the Attorney General to cause an action to be brought in the name of the United States in the United States District Court for the Central District of California or in any such district court having jurisdiction over the person, or persons, and subject matter, for such relief as may be appropriate, and said courts are hereby granted jurisdiction to hear and determine such action.

(d) Delivery to Secretary of money or property at termination of fiduciary relationship

The Secretary may require any money or property in the possession of a fiduciary at the time the fiduciary relationship is terminated, or which is recovered pursuant to this subchapter, to be delivered to him to be held in trust for the individual Indian concerned.

(e) Use and disposition of money or property held in trust by the United States by the Secretary; consent by competent Indian; determination of competency; applicability of administrative procedure under title 5; time and place of hearing; judicial review

Under such regulations as he shall provide, and with the consent of the individual Indian concerned, unless the Secretary determines such Indian to be incompetent by reason of minority or otherwise, in which case such consent shall not be required, the Secretary may use, advance, expend, exchange, deposit, dispose of, invest and reinvest, in any manner and for any purpose, any money or other property held by the United States in trust for such Indian. The Secretary shall make no determination that an adult Indian is incompetent except after according him an opportunity to be heard upon reasonable notice, in accordance with the provisions of subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5. Unless the Indian otherwise agrees, the hearing shall be held in the State of California within sixty days of the date of notice. A person aggrieved by a determination of incompetency made by the Secretary shall be entitled to judicial review of such determination in accordance with sections 701 to 706 of title 5.

(f) Authority of the Secretary under other provisions unaffected

Nothing herein shall be deemed to limit any authority possessed by the Secretary under any other provisions of law.

(Pub. L. 86-339, § 4, Sept. 21, 1959, 73 Stat. 604; Pub. L. 90-597, Oct. 17, 1968, 82 Stat. 1164.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The effective date of this Act, referred to in subsec. (a), probably means the date of enactment of Pub. L. 86-339, which was approved Sept. 21, 1959.

CODIFICATION

In subsec. (e), "subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5" substituted for "the Administrative Procedure Act" on authority of Pub. L. 89-554, §7(b), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 631, the first section of which enacted Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

AMENDMENTS

1968—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 90-597 substituted provisions requiring Secretary to approve any guardian or other fiduciary appointed under State law for estate of any member of band or continued in office as guardian of estate, and provisions requiring Secretary to be given notice of State court proceedings involving estate of any member of band and power to appear in such proceedings, for provisions requiring Secretary to request appointment of a guardian of estate of minor allottees and adult allottees needing assistance.

Subsecs. (b) to (f). Pub. L. 90-597 added subsecs. (b) to (f).

§ 955. Tax exemption

(a) The right to an equalization allotment or to a cash payment in lieu thereof pursuant to section 953(d) of this title, shall be transferable by will or descent in the same manner as are trust payments under existing law and shall not be subject to State or Federal inheritance, estate, legacy, or succession taxes.

(b) A cash payment made in lieu of an equalization allotment pursuant to section 953(d) of this title shall not be regarded as income or capital gain for purposes of Federal or State income taxation and shall not, as long as it remains in the form of cash or a bank deposit in the ownership of the allottee, be subject to taxation as personal property. A payment and the income derived therefrom heretofore or hereafter made to an allottee as compensation for the acquisition of part or all of the allottee's allotment for a public purpose is—

- (1) deemed a cash payment in lieu of an allotment for purposes of this subsection;
- (2) deemed a right under subsection (a) of this section; and
- (3) subject to sections 409a and 410 of this title.

(Pub. L. 86-339, §5, Sept. 21, 1959, 73 Stat. 604; Pub. L. 100-581, title II, §216, Nov. 1, 1988, 102 Stat. 2941.)

AMENDMENTS

1988—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 100-581 inserted sentence at end relating to payment and income derived therefrom made as compensation for acquisition of part of all of allottee's allotment for public purpose.

§ 956. Claims against allotments**(a) Assignment, sale, hypothecation, attachment or levy void unless approved**

Equalization allotments made pursuant to this subchapter shall not be subject to assignment, sale, or hypothecation or to any attachment or levy for claims or debts created before or after September 21, 1959, without the written approval of the Secretary, and any such assignment, sale, hypothecation, attachment, or levy

that has not been so approved by the Secretary shall be absolutely null and void.

(b) Liens and lis pendens; legal services

No equalization allotment made pursuant to this subchapter, and no basic allotment made prior to this Act, shall be subject to an equitable charging lien or other charge or lien or enforced sale for any advantage or benefit which the allottee has received or will receive under or as a consequence of enactment of this subchapter, nor shall any lis pendens heretofore or hereafter filed upon such lands while in a restricted status be of any effect or constitute notice of any action. Whoever directly or indirectly accepts or receives any money or other form of compensation for legal services in connection with such restricted lands from any person who has not expressly employed him as his attorney shall be liable, in a civil action brought by the payor or his heirs or devisees or by the United States on his behalf, for twice the amount so accepted or received unless, prior to the time of acceptance or receipt of said compensation, the right to such compensation has been determined and the amount thereof fixed by a formal order of the Federal court having jurisdiction to make such order. Nothing herein provided shall be construed to prevent any attorney from petitioning the Federal court having jurisdiction to fix and determine the fees to which he is entitled and to pursue and enforce payment thereof in any lawful manner after the court has made such order.

(Pub. L. 86-339, §6, Sept. 21, 1959, 73 Stat. 604.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The words "prior to this Act", referred to in subsec. (b), mean prior to enactment of Act Sept. 21, 1959, Pub. L. 86-339.

§ 957. Allotments deemed full equalization

Allotments in accordance with the provisions of this subchapter shall be deemed complete and full equalization of allotments on the Agua Caliente Reservation.

(Pub. L. 86-339, §7, Sept. 21, 1959, 73 Stat. 605.)

§ 958. Organization and transfer of title to legal entity

The band may, at any time it wishes to do so, organize a legal entity under the laws of the State of California and request the Secretary to transfer to such legal entity title to the lands in the reserves established by section 953(b) of this title. The Secretary shall transfer an unrestricted title to such property if the organization of the legal entity and request for the transfer have been approved by a majority of the adult members of the band who are eligible to vote, and if in the judgment of the Secretary the legal entity is organized in a form and manner that is fair to all members of the band: *Provided, however,* That if the lands to which the proviso to the fourth item in section 953(b) of this title is applicable are transferred to such an entity, they shall be held by it subject to the terms provided in said proviso, and the rights and duties therein set forth shall be preserved and reflected in any distribution of securities of, or other evidences of participation in, said entity.