

of the United States in trust for the respective Pueblo Indian tribes.

(Pub. L. 87-231, §10, Sept. 14, 1961, 75 Stat. 505.)

CODIFICATION

Section was not enacted as part of act Aug. 13, 1949, ch. 425, 63 Stat. 604, which comprises this subchapter.

SUBCHAPTER XXI—NAVAJO AND HOPI  
TRIBES: REHABILITATION

**§ 631. Basic program for conservation and development of resources; projects; appropriations**

In order to further the purposes of existing treaties with the Navajo Indians, to provide facilities, employment, and services essential in combating hunger, disease, poverty, and demoralization among the members of the Navajo and Hopi Tribes, to make available the resources of their reservations for use in promoting a self-supporting economy and self-reliant communities, and to lay a stable foundation on which these Indians can engage in diversified economic activities and ultimately attain standards of living comparable with those enjoyed by other citizens, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed to undertake, within the limits of the funds from time to time appropriated pursuant to this subchapter, a program of basic improvements for the conservation and development of the resources of the Navajo and Hopi Indians, the more productive employment of their manpower, and the supplying of means to be used in their rehabilitation, whether on or off the Navajo and Hopi Indian Reservations. Such program shall include the following projects for which capital expenditures in the amount shown after each project listed in the following subsections and totaling \$108,570,000 are authorized to be appropriated:

(1) Soil and water conservation and range improvement work, \$10,000,000.

(2) Completion and extension of existing irrigation projects, and completion of the investigation to determine the feasibility of the proposed San Juan-Shiprock irrigation project, \$9,000,000.

(3) Surveys and studies of timber, coal, mineral, and other physical and human resources, \$500,000.

(4) Development of industrial and business enterprises, \$1,000,000.

(5) Development of opportunities for off-reservation employment and resettlement and assistance in adjustments related thereto, \$3,500,000.

(6) Relocation and resettlement of Navajo and Hopi Indians (Colorado River Indian Reservation), \$5,750,000.

(7) Roads and trails, \$40,000,000; of which not less than \$20,000,000 shall be (A) available for contract authority for such construction and improvement of the roads designated as route 1 and route 3 on the Navajo and Hopi Indian Reservations as may be necessary to bring the portion of such roads located in any State up to at least the secondary road standards in effect in such State, and (B) in addition to any amounts expended on such roads under the \$20,000,000 authorization provided under this clause prior to amendment.

(8) Telephone and radio communications systems, \$250,000.

(9) Agency, institutional, and domestic water supply, \$2,500,000.

(10) Establishment of a revolving loan fund, \$5,000,000.

(11) Hospital buildings and equipment, and other health conservation measures, \$4,750,000.

(12) School buildings and equipment, and other educational measures, \$25,000,000.

(13) Housing and necessary facilities and equipment, \$820,000.

(14) Common service facilities, \$500,000.

Funds so appropriated shall be available for administration, investigations, plans, construction, and all other objects necessary for or appropriate to the carrying out of the provisions of this subchapter. Such further sums as may be necessary for or appropriate to the annual operation and maintenance of the projects herein enumerated are also authorized to be appropriated. Funds appropriated under these authorizations shall be in addition to funds made available for use on the Navajo and Hopi Reservations, or with respect to Indians of the Navajo Tribes, out of appropriations heretofore or hereafter granted for the benefit, care, or assistance of Indians in general, or made pursuant to other authorizations now in effect.

(Apr. 19, 1950, ch. 92, §1, 64 Stat. 44; Pub. L. 85-740, Aug. 23, 1958, 72 Stat. 834.)

AMENDMENTS

1958—Pub. L. 85-740 substituted \$108,570,000 for \$88,570,000 in opening par., and, in cl. (7), increased from \$20,000,000 to \$40,000,000 the amount authorized for roads and trails, of which not less than \$20,000,000 shall be available for contract authority to bring routes 1 and 3 on the Navajo and Hopi Indian reservations up to secondary road standards in the State.

CONTRACT AUTHORITY; APPROPRIATIONS

Pub. L. 85-740, Aug. 23, 1958, 72 Stat. 834, provided in part that the contract authority and appropriations authorized by the amendment to clause (7) of this section shall be in addition to sums apportioned to Indian reservations or to the State of Arizona under the Federal Highway Act, as amended and supplemented.

**§ 632. Character and extent of administration; time limit; reports on use of funds**

The foregoing program shall be administered in accordance with the provisions of this subchapter and existing laws relating to Indian affairs, shall include such facilities and services as are requisite for or incidental to the effectuation of the projects herein enumerated, shall apply sustained-yield principles to the administration of all renewable resources, and shall be prosecuted in a manner which will provide for completion of the program, so far as practicable, within ten years from April 19, 1950. An account of the progress being had in the rehabilitation of the Navajo and Hopi Indians, and of the use made of the funds appropriated to that end under this subchapter, shall be included in each annual report of the work of the Department of the Interior submitted to the Congress during the period covered by the foregoing program.

(Apr. 19, 1950, ch. 92, §2, 64 Stat. 45.)

**§ 633. Preference in employment; on-the-job training**

Navajo and Hopi Indians shall be given, whenever practicable, preference in employment on all projects undertaken pursuant to this subchapter, and, in furtherance of this policy may be given employment on such projects without regard to the provisions of the civil-service and classification laws. To the fullest extent possible, Indian workers on such projects shall receive on-the-job training in order to enable them to become qualified for more skilled employment.

(Apr. 19, 1950, ch. 92, § 3, 64 Stat. 45.)

**§ 634. Loans to Tribes or individual members; loan fund**

The Secretary of the Interior is authorized, under such regulations as he may prescribe, to make loans from the loan fund authorized by section 631 of this title to the Navajo Tribe, or any member or association of members thereof, or to the Hopi Tribe, or any member of association of members thereof, for such productive purposes as, in his judgment, will tend to promote the better utilization of the manpower and resources of the Navajo or Hopi Indians. Sums collected in repayment of such loans and sums collected as interest or other charges thereon shall be credited to the loan fund, and shall be available for the purpose for which the fund was established.

(Apr. 19, 1950, ch. 92, § 4, 64 Stat. 45.)

INDIAN REVOLVING LOAN FUND

Certain funds to be administered as a single Indian Revolving Loan Fund after Apr. 12, 1974, see section 1461 of this title.

**§ 635. Disposition of lands**

**(a) Lease of restricted lands; renewals**

Any restricted Indian lands owned by the Navajo Tribe, members thereof, or associations of such members, or by the Hopi Tribe, members thereof, or associations of such members, may be leased by the Indian owners, with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, for public, religious, educational, recreational, or business purposes, including the development or utilization of natural resources in connection with operations under such leases. All leases so granted shall be for a term of not to exceed twenty-five years, but may include provisions authorizing their renewal for an additional term of not to exceed twenty-five years, and shall be made under such regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary. Restricted allotments of deceased Indians may be leased under this section, for the benefit of their heirs or devisees, in the circumstances and by the persons prescribed in section 380 of this title. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to repeal or affect any authority to lease restricted Indian lands conferred by or pursuant to any other provision of law.

**(b) Lease, sale, or other disposition of lands owned in fee simple by Navajo Tribe**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, land owned in fee simple by the Navajo Tribe

may be leased, sold, or otherwise disposed of by the sole authority of the Navajo Tribal Council, in any manner that similar land in the State in which such land is situated may be leased, sold, or otherwise disposed of by private landowners, and such disposition shall create no liability on the part of the United States.

**(c) Transfer of unallotted lands to tribally owned or municipal corporations**

The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to transfer, upon request of the Navajo Tribal Council, to any corporation owned by the tribe and organized pursuant to State law, or to any municipal corporation organized under State law, legal title to or a leasehold interest in any unallotted lands held for the Navajo Indian Tribe, and thereafter the United States shall have no responsibility or liability for, but on request of the tribe shall render advice and assistance in, the management, use, or disposition of such lands.

(Apr. 19, 1950, ch. 92, § 5, 64 Stat. 46; Pub. L. 86-505, § 1, June 11, 1960, 74 Stat. 199.)

AMENDMENTS

1960—Pub. L. 86-505 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a) and added subsecs. (b) and (c).

**§ 636. Adoption of constitution by Navajo Tribe; method; contents**

In order to facilitate the fullest possible participation by the Navajo Tribe in the program authorized by this subchapter, the members of the tribe shall have the right to adopt a tribal constitution in the manner herein prescribed. Such constitution may provide for the exercise by the Navajo Tribe of any powers vested in the tribe or any organ thereof by existing law, together with such additional powers as the members of the tribe may, with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, deem proper to include therein. Such constitution shall be formulated by the Navajo Tribal Council at any regular meeting, distributed in printed form to the Navajo people for consideration, and adopted by secret ballot of the adult members of the Navajo Tribe in an election held under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at which a majority of the qualified votes cast favor such adoption. The constitution shall authorize the fullest possible participation of the Navajos in the administration of their affairs as approved by the Secretary of the Interior and shall become effective when approved by the Secretary. The constitution may be amended from time to time in the same manner as herein provided for its adoption, and the Secretary of the Interior shall approve any amendment which in the opinion of the Secretary of the Interior advances the development of the Navajo people toward the fullest realization and exercise of the rights, privileges, duties, and responsibilities of American citizenship.

(Apr. 19, 1950, ch. 92, § 6, 64 Stat. 46.)

**§ 637. Use of Navajo tribal funds**

Notwithstanding any other provision of existing law, the tribal funds now on deposit or hereafter placed to the credit of the Navajo Tribe of