

(Pub. L. 92-203, §38, as added Pub. L. 100-241, §9, Feb. 3, 1988, 101 Stat. 1802.)

**§ 1629e. Settlement Trust option**

**(a) Conveyance of corporate assets**

(1)(A) A Native Corporation may convey assets (including stock or beneficial interests therein) to a Settlement Trust in accordance with the laws of the State (except to the extent that such laws are inconsistent with this section and section 1629b of this title).

(B) The approval of the shareholders of the corporation in the form of a resolution shall be required to convey all or substantially all of the assets of the corporation to a Settlement Trust. A conveyance in violation of this clause shall be void ab initio and shall not be given effect by any court.

(2) No subsurface estate in land shall be conveyed to a Settlement Trust. A conveyance of title to, or any other interest in, subsurface estate in violation of this subparagraph shall be void ab initio and shall not be given effect by any court.

(3) Conveyances made pursuant to this subsection—

(A) shall be subject to applicable laws respecting fraudulent conveyance and creditors rights; and

(B) shall give rise to dissenters rights to the extent provided under the laws of the State only if—

(i) the rights of beneficiaries in the Settlement Trust receiving a conveyance are inalienable; and

(ii) a shareholder vote on such transfer is required by section 1629b(a)(4) of this title.

(4) The provisions of this subsection shall not prohibit a Native Corporation from engaging in any conveyance, reorganization, or transaction not otherwise prohibited under the laws of the State or the United States.

**(b) Authority and limitations of a Settlement Trust**

(1) The purpose of a Settlement Trust shall be to promote the health, education, and welfare of its beneficiaries and preserve the heritage and culture of Natives. A Settlement Trust shall not—

(A) operate as a business;

(B) alienate land or any interest in land received from the settlor Native Corporation (except if the recipient of the land is the settlor corporation or the land is conveyed for a homesite by the Trust to a beneficiary of the Trust who is also a legal resident under Alaska law of the Native village of the settlor corporation and the conveyance does not exceed 1.5 acres); or

(C) discriminate in favor of a group of individuals composed only or principally of employees, officers, or directors of the settlor Native Corporation.

An alienation of land or an interest in land in violation of this paragraph shall be void ab initio and shall not be given effect by any court.

(2) A Native Corporation that has established a Settlement Trust shall have exclusive authority to—

(A) appoint the trustees of the trust, and

(B) remove the trustees of the trust for cause.

Only a natural person shall be appointed a trustee of a Settlement Trust. An appointment or removal of a trustee in violation of this paragraph shall be void ab initio and shall not be given effect by any court.

(3) A Native Corporation that has established a Settlement Trust may expand the class of beneficiaries to include holders of Settlement Common Stock issued after the establishment of the trust without compensation to the original beneficiaries.

(4) A Settlement Trust shall not be held to violate any laws against perpetuities.

**(c) Savings**

(1) The provisions of this chapter shall continue to apply to any land or interest in land received from the Federal Government pursuant to this chapter and later conveyed to a Settlement Trust as if the land or interest in land were still held by the Native Corporation that conveyed the land or interest in land.

(2) No timber resources subject to section 1606(i) of this title conveyed to a Settlement Trust shall be sold, exchanged, or otherwise conveyed except as necessary to—

(A) dispose of diseased or dying timber or to prevent the spread of disease or insect infestation;

(B) prevent or suppress fire; or

(C) ensure public safety.

The revenue, if any, from such timber harvests shall be subject to section 1606(i) of this title as if such conveyance had not occurred.

(3) The conveyance of assets (including stock or beneficial interests) pursuant to subsection (a) shall not affect the applicability or enforcement (including specific performance) of a valid contract, judgment, lien, or other obligation (including an obligation arising under section 1606(i) of this title) to which such assets, stock, or beneficial interests were subject immediately prior to such conveyance.

(4) A claim based upon paragraph (1), (2), or (3) shall be enforceable against the transferee Settlement Trust holding the land, interest in land, or other assets (including stock or beneficial interests) in question to the same extent as such claim would have been enforceable against the transferor Native Corporation, and valid obligations arising under section 1606(i) of this title as well as claims with respect to a conveyance in violation of a valid contract, judgment, lien, or other obligation shall also be enforceable against the transferor corporation.

(5) Except as provided in paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4), once a Native Corporation has made, pursuant to subsection (a), a conveyance to a Settlement Trust that does not—

(A) render it—

(i) unable to satisfy claims based upon paragraph (1), (2), or (3); or

(ii) insolvent; or

(B) occur when the Native Corporation is insolvent;

the assets so conveyed to the Settlement Trust shall not be subject to attachment, distraint, or

sale on execution of judgment or other process or order of any court, except with respect to the lawful debts or obligations of the Settlement Trust.

(6) No transferee Settlement Trust shall make a distribution or conveyance of assets (including cash, stock, or beneficial interests) that would render it unable to satisfy a claim made pursuant to paragraph (1), (2), or (3). A distribution or conveyance made in violation of this paragraph shall be void ab initio and shall not be given effect by any court.

(7) Except where otherwise expressly provided, no provision of this section shall be construed to require shareholder approval of an action where shareholder approval would not be required under the laws of the State.

(8) A beneficiary's interest in a settlement trust and the distributions thereon shall be subject to creditor action (including without limitation, levy attachment, pledge, lien, judgment execution, assignment, and the insolvency and bankruptcy laws) only to the extent that Settlement Common Stock and the distributions thereon are subject to such creditor action under section 1606(h) of this title.

(Pub. L. 92-203, § 39, as added Pub. L. 100-241, § 10, Feb. 3, 1988, 101 Stat. 1804; amended Pub. L. 105-333, § 13, Oct. 31, 1998, 112 Stat. 3135; Pub. L. 106-559, title III, § 302, Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2782; Pub. L. 108-7, div. F, title III, § 337(b), Feb. 20, 2003, 117 Stat. 278; Pub. L. 109-221, title I, § 101(b), May 12, 2006, 120 Stat. 337.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2006—Subsec. (a)(3)(B). Pub. L. 109-221, § 101(b)(1), made technical correction to directory language of Pub. L. 108-7, § 337(b). See 2003 Amendment note below.

Subsec. (a)(3)(B)(ii). Pub. L. 109-221, § 101(b)(2), substituted "section 1629b(a)(4) of this title" for "(a)(4) of section 1629b of this title".

2003—Subsec. (a)(3)(B). Pub. L. 108-7, § 337(b), as amended by Pub. L. 109-221, § 101(b)(1), added subpar. (B) and struck out former subpar. (B) which read as follows: "shall give rise to dissenters rights to the extent provided under the laws of the State only if the rights of beneficiaries in the Settlement Trust receiving a conveyance are inalienable."

2000—Subsec. (c)(8). Pub. L. 106-559 added par. (8).

1998—Subsec. (b)(1)(B). Pub. L. 105-333 inserted "or the land is conveyed for a homesite by the Trust to a beneficiary of the Trust who is also a legal resident under Alaska law of the Native village of the settlor corporation and the conveyance does not exceed 1.5 acres" after "settlor corporation".

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2006 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 109-221 effective Feb. 20, 2003, see section 101(c) of Pub. L. 109-221, set out as a note under section 1629b of this title.

### § 1629f. Claims arising from contamination of transferred lands

(a) As used in this section the term "contaminant" means<sup>1</sup> hazardous substance harmful to public health or the environment, including friable asbestos.

(b) Within 18 months of November 2, 1995, and after consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, State of Alaska, and appropriate Alaska Native Corporations and organizations, the Sec-

retary shall submit to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, a report addressing issues presented by the presence of contaminants on lands conveyed or prioritized for conveyance to such corporations pursuant to this chapter. Such report shall consist of—

(1) existing information concerning the nature and types of contaminants present on such lands prior to conveyance to Alaska Native Corporations;

(2) existing information identifying to the extent practicable the existence and availability of potentially responsible parties for the removal or remediation of the effects of such contaminants;

(3) identification of existing remedies;

(4) recommendations for any additional legislation that the Secretary concludes is necessary to remedy the problem of contaminants on the lands; and

(5) in addition to the identification of contaminants, identification of structures known to have asbestos present and recommendations to inform Native landowners on the containment of asbestos.

(Pub. L. 92-203, § 40, as added Pub. L. 104-42, title I, § 103, Nov. 2, 1995, 109 Stat. 354.)

#### CHANGE OF NAME

Committee on Resources of House of Representatives changed to Committee on Natural Resources of House of Representatives by House Resolution No. 6, One Hundred Tenth Congress, Jan. 5, 2007.

### § 1629g. Open season for certain Alaska Native veterans for allotments

#### (a) In general

(1) During the eighteen month period following promulgation of implementing rules pursuant to subsection (e), a person described in subsection (b) shall be eligible for an allotment of not more than two parcels of federal<sup>1</sup> land totaling 160 acres or less under the Act of May 17, 1906 (chapter 2469; 34 Stat. 197), as such Act was in effect before December 18, 1971.

(2) Allotments may be selected only from lands that were vacant, unappropriated, and unreserved on the date when the person eligible for the allotment first used and occupied those lands.

(3) The Secretary may not convey allotments containing any of the following—

(A) lands upon which a native or non-native campsite is located, except for a campsite used primarily by the person selecting the allotment;

(B) lands selected by, but not conveyed to, the State of Alaska pursuant to the Alaska Statehood Act or any other provision of law;

(C) lands selected by, but not conveyed to, a Village or Regional Corporation;

(D) lands designated as wilderness by statute;

(E) acquired lands;

(F) lands containing a building, permanent structure, or other development owned or con-

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be "means a".

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be capitalized.