

after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 27, 2000] as follows:

“(A) Four members shall be appointed by the President.

“(B) Four members shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services [now Committee on Financial Services] of the House of Representatives.

“(C) Four members shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

“(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—

“(A) MEMBERS OF TRIBES.—At all times, not less than eight of the members of the Commission shall be members of federally recognized Indian tribes.

“(B) EXPERIENCE IN LAND TITLE MATTERS.—All members of the Commission shall have experience in and knowledge of land title matters relating to Indian trust lands.

“(3) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Commission shall be one of the members of the Commission appointed under paragraph (1)(C), as elected by the members of the Commission.

“(4) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy on the Commission shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

“(5) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Members of the Commission shall serve without pay, but each member shall receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with sections 5702 and 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

“(c) INITIAL MEETING.—The Chairperson of the Commission shall call the initial meeting of the Commission. Such meeting shall be held within 30 days after the Chairperson of the Commission determines that sums sufficient for the Commission to carry out its duties under this Act [probably should be “section”] have been appropriated for such purpose.

“(d) DUTIES.—The Commission shall analyze the system of the Bureau of Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior for maintaining land ownership records and title documents and issuing certified title status reports relating to Indian trust lands and, pursuant to such analysis, determine how best to improve or replace the system—

“(1) to ensure prompt and accurate responses to requests for title status reports;

“(2) to eliminate any backlog of requests for title status reports; and

“(3) to ensure that the administration of the system will not in any way impair or restrict the ability of Native Americans to obtain conventional loans for purchase of residences located on Indian trust lands, including any actions necessary to ensure that the system will promptly be able to meet future demands for certified title status reports, taking into account the anticipated complexity and volume of such requests.

“(e) REPORT.—Not later than the date of the termination of the Commission under subsection (h), the Commission shall submit a report to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services [now Committee on Financial Services] of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate describing the analysis and determinations made pursuant to subsection (d).

“(f) POWERS.—

“(1) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Commission may, for the purpose of carrying out this section, hold hearings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony, and receive evidence as the Commission considers appropriate.

“(2) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon request of the Commission, the head of any Federal department or agency may detail, on a reimbursable basis, any of the personnel of that department or agency to the Commission to assist it in carrying out its duties under this section.

“(3) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—The Commission may secure directly from any department or agency

of the United States information necessary to enable it to carry out this section. Upon request of the Chairperson of the Commission, the head of that department or agency shall furnish that information to the Commission.

“(4) MAILS.—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the United States.

“(5) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon the request of the Commission, the Administrator of General Services shall provide to the Commission, on a reimbursable basis, the administrative support services necessary for the Commission to carry out its duties under this section.

“(6) STAFF.—The Commission may appoint personnel as it considers appropriate, subject to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and shall pay such personnel in accordance with the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of that title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates.

“(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary, and any amounts appropriated pursuant to this subsection shall remain available until expended.

“(h) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate 1 year after the date of the initial meeting of the Commission.”

Substantially identical provisions were contained in Pub. L. 106-568, title X, §1001, Dec. 27, 2000, 114 Stat. 2923.

#### § 4044. Reconciliation report

The Secretary shall transmit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate, by May 31, 1996, a report identifying for each tribal trust fund account for which the Secretary is responsible a balance reconciled as of September 30, 1995. In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall consult with the Special Trustee. The report shall include—

(1) a description of the Secretary’s methodology in reconciling trust fund accounts;

(2) attestations by each account holder that—

(A) the Secretary has provided the account holder with as full and complete accounting as possible of the account holder’s funds to the earliest possible date, and that the account holder accepts the balance as reconciled by the Secretary; or

(B) the account holder disputes the balance of the account holder’s account as reconciled by the Secretary and statement explaining why the account holder disputes the Secretary’s reconciled balance; and

(3) a statement by the Secretary with regard to each account balance disputed by the account holder outlining efforts the Secretary will undertake to resolve the dispute.

(Pub. L. 103-412, title III, §304, Oct. 25, 1994, 108 Stat. 4248.)

#### SETTLEMENT OF TRIBAL CLAIMS

Pub. L. 107-153, §1, Mar. 19, 2002, 116 Stat. 79, as amended by Pub. L. 109-158, §1, Dec. 30, 2005, 119 Stat. 2954, provided that:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for purposes of determining the date on which an Indian tribe received a reconciliation report

for purposes of applying a statute of limitations, any such report provided to or received by an Indian tribe in response to section 304 of the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 4044) shall be deemed to have been received by the Indian tribe on December 31, 2000.

“(b) STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.—Subsection (a) is solely intended to provide recipients of reconciliation reports with the opportunity to postpone the filing of claims, or to facilitate the voluntary dismissal of claims, to encourage settlement negotiations with the United States.”

#### § 4045. Staff and consultants

##### (a) Staff

The Special Trustee may employ such staff as the Special Trustee deems necessary. The Special Trustee may request staff assistance from within the Department and any office or Bureau thereof as the Special Trustee deems necessary.

##### (b) Contracts

To the extent and in such amounts as may be provided in advance by appropriations Acts, the Special Trustee may enter into contracts and other arrangements with public agencies and with private persons and organizations for consulting services and make such payments as necessary to carry out the provisions of this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 103-412, title III, §305, Oct. 25, 1994, 108 Stat. 4248.)

#### § 4046. Advisory board

##### (a) Establishment and membership

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Special Trustee shall establish an advisory board to provide advice on all matters within the jurisdiction of the Special Trustee. The advisory board shall consist of nine members, appointed by the Special Trustee after consultation with Indian tribes and appropriate Indian organizations, of which—

(1) five members shall represent trust fund account holders, including both tribal and individual Indian Money accounts;

(2) two members shall have practical experience in trust fund and financial management;

(3) one member shall have practical experience in fiduciary investment management; and

(4) one member, from academia, shall have knowledge of general management of large organizations.

##### (b) Term

Each member shall serve a term of two years.

##### (c) FACA

The advisory board shall not be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

##### (d) Termination

The advisory board shall terminate upon termination of the Office of Special Trustee.

(Pub. L. 103-412, title III, §306, Oct. 25, 1994, 108 Stat. 4249; Pub. L. 104-109, §6(b), Feb. 12, 1996, 110 Stat. 764.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Federal Advisory Committee Act, referred to in subsec. (c), is Pub. L. 92-463, Oct. 6, 1972, 86 Stat. 770, as

amended, which is set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

#### AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 104-109 substituted “advisory board” for “Advisory Board”.

#### APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS

Pub. L. 108-7, div. F, title I, §133, Feb. 20, 2003, 117 Stat. 243, provided that: “Within 90 days of enactment of this Act [Feb. 20, 2003] the Special Trustee for American Indians, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the Tribes, shall appoint new members to the Special Trustee Advisory Board.”

#### SUBCHAPTER IV—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

##### § 4061. Authorization of appropriations

There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 103-412, title IV, §401, Oct. 25, 1994, 108 Stat. 4249.)

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