

The Government in the Sunshine Act, referred to in subsec. (a), is Pub. L. 94-409, Sept. 13, 1976, 90 Stat. 1241, which enacted section 552b of Title 5, amended sections 551, 552, 556, and 557 of Title 5, section 10 of Pub. L. 92-463, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, and section 410 of Title 39, Postal Service, and enacted provisions set out as notes under section 552b of Title 5. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 1976 Amendment note set out under section 552b of Title 5 and Tables.

The Federal Advisory Committee Act, referred to in subsec. (a), is Pub. L. 92-463, Oct. 6, 1972, 86 Stat. 770, as amended, which is set out in the Appendix to Title 5.

The Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973, referred to in subsec. (a), is Pub. L. 93-236, Jan. 2, 1974, 87 Stat. 985, as amended. Title IV of the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973 was classified generally to subchapter IV (§761 et seq.) of chapter 16 of this title, and was repealed by Pub. L. 99-509, title IV, §4033(a)(1), Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 1908. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 701 of this title and Tables.

The Conrail Privatization Act, referred to in subsec. (a), is subtitle A (§§4001-4052) of title IV of Pub. L. 99-509, Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 1892, which is classified principally to chapter 22 (§1301 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1301 of this title and Tables.

CODIFICATION

In subsec. (a), “section 303 of title 49” substituted for “section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 [49 U.S.C. 1653(f)]” on authority of Pub. L. 97-449, §6(b), Jan. 12, 1983, 96 Stat. 2443, the first section of which enacted subtitle I (§101 et seq.) and chapter 31 (§3101 et seq.) of subtitle II of Title 49, Transportation.

AMENDMENTS

2014—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 113-287, which directed substitution of “division A of subtitle III of title 54” for “the National Historic Preservation Act”, was executed by making the substitution for “the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966” to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

1986—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 99-509 inserted “and to the implementation of the sale of the interest of the United States in Conrail under the Conrail Privatization Act”.

CHAPTER 21—ALASKA RAILROAD TRANSFER

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§ 1201. Findings

The Congress finds that—

(1) the Alaska Railroad, which was built by the Federal Government to serve the transportation and development needs of the Territory of Alaska, presently is providing freight and passenger services that primarily benefit residents and businesses in the State of Alaska;

(2) many communities and individuals in Alaska are wholly or substantially dependent on the Alaska Railroad for freight and pas-

senger service and provision of such service is an essential governmental function;

(3) continuation of services of the Alaska Railroad and the opportunity for future expansion of those services are necessary to achieve Federal, State, and private objectives; however, continued Federal control and financial support are no longer necessary to accomplish these objectives;

(4) the transfer of the Alaska Railroad and provision for its operation by the State in the manner contemplated by this chapter is made pursuant to the Federal goal and ongoing program of transferring appropriate activities to the States;

(5) the State’s continued operation of the Alaska Railroad following the transfer contemplated by this chapter, together with such expansion of the railroad as may be necessary or convenient in the future, will constitute an appropriate public use of the rail system and associated properties, will provide an essential governmental service, and will promote the general welfare of Alaska’s residents and visitors; and

(6) in order to give the State government the ability to determine the Alaska Railroad’s role in serving the State’s transportation needs in the future, including the opportunity to extend rail service, and to provide a savings to the Federal Government, the Federal Government should offer to transfer the railroad to the State, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, in the same manner in which other Federal transportation functions (including highways and airports) have been transferred since Alaska became a State in 1959.

(Pub. L. 97-468, title VI, §602, Jan. 14, 1983, 96 Stat. 2556.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in pars. (4) to (6), was in the original “this title”, meaning title VI (§601 et seq.) of Pub. L. 97-468, Jan. 14, 1983, 96 Stat. 2556, known as the Alaska Railroad Transfer Act of 1982, which is classified principally to this chapter (§1201 et seq.). For complete classification of title VI to the Code, see Short Title note below and Tables.

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 97-468, title VI, §601, Jan. 14, 1983, 96 Stat. 2556, provided that: “This title [enacting this chapter, amending sections 231, 712, and 802 of this title, sections 305, 3401, 5102, 5342, and 7327 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, section 410hh-1 of Title 16, Conservation, section 251 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, section 10749 of Title 49, Transportation, and section 1655 of the Appendix to Title 49, repealing section 353a of Title 16, section 208a of Title 30, Mineral Lands and Mining, sections 975, 975a, and 975c to 975g of Title 43, Public Lands, and section 301a of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions, and amending provisions set out as a note under section 1611 of Title 43] may be cited as the ‘Alaska Railroad Transfer Act of 1982.’”

§ 1202. Definitions

As used in this chapter, the term—

(1) “Alaska Railroad” means the agency of the United States Government that is operated by the Department of Transportation as a rail carrier in Alaska under authority of the

Act of March 12, 1914 (43 U.S.C. 975 et seq.) (popularly referred to as the “Alaska Railroad Act”) and section 6(i)¹ of the Department of Transportation Act, or, as the context requires, the railroad operated by that agency;

(2) “Alaska Railroad Revolving Fund” means the public enterprise fund maintained by the Department of the Treasury into which revenues of the Alaska Railroad and appropriations for the Alaska Railroad are deposited, and from which funds are expended for Alaska Railroad operation, maintenance and construction work authorized by law;

(3) “claim of valid existing rights” means any claim to the rail properties of the Alaska Railroad on record in the Department of the Interior as of January 13, 1983;

(4) “date of transfer” means the date on which the Secretary delivers to the State the four documents referred to in section 1203(b)(1) of this title;

(5) “employees” means all permanent personnel employed by the Alaska Railroad on the date of transfer, including the officers of the Alaska Railroad, unless otherwise indicated in this chapter;

(6) “exclusive-use easement” means an easement which affords to the easement holder the following:

(A) the exclusive right to use, possess, and enjoy the surface estate of the land subject to this easement for transportation, communication, and transmission purposes and for support functions associated with such purposes;

(B) the right to use so much of the subsurface estate of the lands subject to this easement as is necessary for the transportation, communication, and transmission purposes and associated support functions for which the surface of such lands is used;

(C) subjacent and lateral support of the lands subject to the easement; and

(D) the right (in the easement holder’s discretion) to fence all or part of the lands subject to this easement and to affix track, fixtures, and structures to such lands and to exclude other persons from all or part of such lands;

(7) “Native Corporation” has the same meaning as such term has under section 102(6) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3102(6));

(8) “officers of the Alaska Railroad” means the employees occupying the following positions at the Alaska Railroad as of the day before the date of transfer: General Manager; Assistant General Manager; Assistant to the General Manager; Chief of Administration; and Chief Counsel;

(9) “public lands” has the same meaning as such term has under section 3(e) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602(e));

(10) “rail properties of the Alaska Railroad” means all right, title, and interest of the United States to lands, buildings, facilities, machinery, equipment, supplies, records, roll-

ing stock, trade names, accounts receivable, goodwill, and other real and personal property, both tangible and intangible, in which there is an interest reserved, withdrawn, appropriated, owned, administered or otherwise held or validly claimed for the Alaska Railroad by the United States or any agency or instrumentality thereof as of January 14, 1983, but excluding any such properties disposed of, and including any such properties acquired, in the ordinary course of business after that date but before the date of transfer, and also including the exclusive-use easement within the Denali National Park and Preserve conveyed to the State pursuant to this chapter and also excluding the following:

(A) the unexercised reservation to the United States for future rights-of-way required in all patents for land taken up, entered, or located in Alaska, as provided by the Act of March 12, 1914 (43 U.S.C. 975 et seq.);

(B) the right of the United States to exercise the power of eminent domain;

(C) any moneys in the Alaska Railroad Revolving Fund which the Secretary demonstrates, in consultation with the State, are unobligated funds appropriated from general tax revenues or are needed to satisfy obligations incurred by the United States in connection with the operation of the Alaska Railroad which would have been paid from such Fund but for this chapter and which are not assumed by the State pursuant to this chapter;

(D) any personal property which the Secretary demonstrates, in consultation with the State, prior to the date of transfer under section 1203 of this title, to be necessary to carry out functions of the United States after the date of transfer; and

(E) any lands or interest therein (except as specified in this chapter) within the boundaries of the Denali National Park and Preserve;

(11) “right-of-way” means, except as used in section 1208 of this title—

(A) an area extending not less than one hundred feet on both sides of the center line of any main line or branch line of the Alaska Railroad; or

(B) an area extending on both sides of the center line of any main line or branch line of the Alaska Railroad appropriated or retained by or for the Alaska Railroad that, as a result of military jurisdiction over, or non-Federal ownership of, lands abutting the main line or branch line, is of a width less than that described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph;

(12) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Transportation;

(13) “State” means the State of Alaska or the State-owned railroad, as the context requires;

(14) “State-owned railroad” means the authority, agency, corporation or other entity which the State of Alaska designates or contracts with to own, operate or manage the rail properties of the Alaska Railroad or, as the

¹ See References in Text note below.

context requires, the railroad owned, operated, or managed by such authority, agency, corporation, or other entity; and

(15) “Village Corporation” has the same meaning as such term has under section 3(j) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602(j)).

(Pub. L. 97-468, title VI, §603, Jan. 14, 1983, 96 Stat. 2556.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Act of March 12, 1914 (43 U.S.C. 975 et seq.) (popularly referred to as the “Alaska Railroad Act”), referred to in pars. (1) and (10)(A), is act Mar. 12, 1914, ch. 37, 38 Stat. 305, as amended, which enacted section 353a of Title 16, Conservation, and sections 975 to 975g of Title 43, Public Lands, and which was repealed by section 615(a)(1) of Pub. L. 97-468 effective on the date of transfer of Alaska Railroad to the State [Jan. 5, 1985], pursuant to section 1203 of this title.

Section 6(i) of the Department of Transportation Act, referred to in par. (1), is section 6(i) of Pub. L. 89-670, which was classified to section 1655(i) of former Title 49, Transportation, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 97-468, title VI, §615(a)(4), Jan. 14, 1983, 96 Stat. 2578.

§ 1203. Transfer authorization

(a) Authority of Secretary; time, manner, etc., of transfer

Subject to the provisions of this chapter, the United States, through the Secretary, shall transfer all rail properties of the Alaska Railroad to the State. Such transfer shall occur as soon as practicable after the Secretary has made the certifications required by subsection (d) of this section and shall be accomplished in the manner specified in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) Simultaneous and interim transfers, conveyances, etc.

(1) On the date of transfer, the Secretary shall simultaneously:

(A) deliver to the State a bill of sale conveying title to all rail properties of the Alaska Railroad except any interest in real property;

(B) deliver to the State an interim conveyance of the rail properties of the Alaska Railroad that are not conveyed pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this paragraph and are not subject to unresolved claims of valid existing rights;

(C) deliver to the State an exclusive license granting the State the right to use all rail properties of the Alaska Railroad not conveyed pursuant to subparagraphs (A) or (B) of this paragraph pending conveyances in accordance with the review and settlement or final administrative adjudication of claims of valid existing rights;

(D) convey to the State a deed granting the State (i) an exclusive-use easement for that portion of the right-of-way of the Alaska Railroad within the Denali National Park and Preserve extending not less than one hundred feet on either side of the main or branch line tracks, and eight feet on either side of the centerline of the “Y” track connecting the main line of the railroad to the power station at McKinley Park Station and (ii) title to railroad-related improvements within such right-of-way.

Prior to taking the action specified in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of this paragraph, the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of the Interior. The exclusive-use easement granted pursuant to subparagraph (D) of this paragraph and all rights afforded by such easement shall be exercised only for railroad purposes, and for such other transportation, transmission, or communication purposes for which lands subject to such easement were utilized as of January 14, 1983.

(2) The Secretary shall deliver to the State an interim conveyance of rail properties of the Alaska Railroad described in paragraph (1)(C) of this subsection that become available for conveyance to the State after the date of transfer as a result of settlement, relinquishment, or final administrative adjudication pursuant to section 1205 of this title. Where the rail properties to be conveyed pursuant to this paragraph are surveyed at the time they become available for conveyance to the State, the Secretary shall deliver a patent therefor in lieu of an interim conveyance.

(3) The force and effect of an interim conveyance made pursuant to paragraphs (1)(B) or (2) of this subsection shall be to convey to and vest in the State exactly the same right, title, and interest in and to the rail properties identified therein as the State would have received had it been issued a patent by the United States. The Secretary of the Interior shall survey the land conveyed by an interim conveyance to the State pursuant to paragraphs (1)(B) or (2) of this subsection and, upon completion of the survey, the Secretary shall issue a patent therefor.

(4) The license granted pursuant to paragraph (1)(C) of this subsection shall authorize the State to use, occupy, and directly receive all benefits of the rail properties described in the license for the operation of the State-owned railroad in conformity with the Memorandum of Understanding referred to in section 1205(b)(3) of this title. The license shall be exclusive, subject only to valid leases, permits, and other instruments issued before the date of transfer and easements reserved pursuant to subsection (c)(2) of this section. With respect to any parcel conveyed pursuant to this chapter, the license shall terminate upon conveyance of such parcel.

(c) Reservations to United States in interim conveyances and patents

(1) Interim conveyances and patents issued to the State pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall confirm, convey and vest in the State all reservations to the United States (whether or not expressed in a particular patent or document of title), except the unexercised reservations to the United States for future rights-of-way made or required by the first section of the Act of March 12, 1914 (43 U.S.C. 975d). The conveyance to the State of such reservations shall not be affected by the repeal of such Act under section 615 of this title.¹

(2) In the license granted under subsection (b)(1)(C) of this section and in all conveyances made to the State under this chapter, there shall be reserved to the Secretary of the Inte-

¹ See References in Text note below.