

**§ 3733. Cooperative agreement between Department of the Interior and Indian tribes**

**(a) Cooperative agreements**

(1)(A) To facilitate the administration of the programs and activities of the Department of the Interior, the Secretary may negotiate and enter into cooperative agreements with Indian tribes to—

- (i) engage in cooperative manpower and job training,
- (ii) develop and publish cooperative agricultural education and resource planning materials, and
- (iii) perform land and facility improvements and other activities related to land and natural resource management and development.

(B) The Secretary may enter into these agreements when the Secretary determines the interest of Indians and Indian tribes will be benefited.

(2) In cooperative agreements entered into under paragraph (1), the Secretary may advance or reimburse funds to contractors from any appropriated funds available for similar kinds of work or by furnishing or sharing materials, supplies, facilities, or equipment without regard to the provisions of section 3324 of title 31 relating to the advance of public moneys.

**(b) Supervision**

In any agreement authorized by this section, Indian tribes and their employees may perform cooperative work under the supervision of the Department of the Interior in emergencies or otherwise as mutually agreed to, but shall not be deemed to be Federal employees other than for the purposes of sections 2671 through 2680 of title 28 and sections 8101 through 8193 of title 5.

**(c) Savings clause**

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to limit the authority of the Secretary to enter into cooperative agreements otherwise authorized by law.

(Pub. L. 103–177, title II, §203, Dec. 3, 1993, 107 Stat. 2021.)

**§ 3734. Obligated service; breach of contract**

**(a) Obligated service**

Where an individual enters into an agreement for obligated service in return for financial assistance under any provision of this subchapter, the Secretary shall adopt such regulations as are necessary to provide for the offer of employment to the recipient of such assistance as required by such provision. Where an offer of employment is not reasonably made, the regulations shall provide that such service shall no longer be required.

**(b) Breach of contract; repayment**

Where an individual fails to accept a reasonable offer of employment in fulfillment of such obligated service or unreasonably terminates or fails to perform the duties of such employment, the Secretary shall require a repayment of the financial assistance provided, prorated for the amount of time of obligated service that was performed, together with interest on such amount which would be payable if at the time

the amounts were paid they were loans bearing interest at the maximum legal prevailing rate, as determined by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(Pub. L. 103–177, title II, §204, Dec. 3, 1993, 107 Stat. 2022.)

**SUBCHAPTER III—GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**§ 3741. Regulations**

Except as otherwise provided by this chapter, the Secretary shall promulgate final regulations for the implementation of this chapter within 24 months after December 3, 1993. All regulations promulgated pursuant to this chapter shall be developed by the Secretary with the participation of the affected Indian tribes.

(Pub. L. 103–177, title III, §301, Dec. 3, 1993, 107 Stat. 2022.)

**§ 3742. Trust responsibility**

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to diminish or expand the trust responsibility of the United States toward Indian trust lands or natural resources, or any legal obligation or remedy resulting therefrom.

(Pub. L. 103–177, title III, §302, Dec. 3, 1993, 107 Stat. 2022.)

**§ 3743. Severability**

If any provision of this chapter, or the application of any provision of this chapter to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the application of such provision or circumstance and the remainder of this chapter shall not be affected thereby.

(Pub. L. 103–177, title III, §303, Dec. 3, 1993, 107 Stat. 2022.)

**§ 3744. Federal, State and local authority**

**(a) Disclaimer**

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to supersede or limit the authority of Federal, State or local agencies otherwise authorized by law to provide services to Indians.

**(b) Duplication of services**

The Secretary shall work with all appropriate Federal departments and agencies to avoid duplication of programs and services currently available to Indian tribes and landowners from other sources.

(Pub. L. 103–177, title III, §304, Dec. 3, 1993, 107 Stat. 2022.)

**§ 3745. Authorization of appropriations**

**(a) General authorization**

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

**(b) Funding source**

The activities required under subchapter II may only be funded from appropriations made pursuant to this chapter. To the greatest extent possible, such activities shall be coordinated with activities funded from other sources.

(Pub. L. 103–177, title III, §305, Dec. 3, 1993, 107 Stat. 2023.)