

## Public Law 92-203

December 18, 1971  
[H. R. 10367]

## AN ACT

To provide for the settlement of certain land claims of Alaska Natives, and for other purposes.

Alaska Native  
Claims Settlement  
Act.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act".*

## DECLARATION OF POLICY

## SEC. 2. Congress finds and declares that—

(a) there is an immediate need for a fair and just settlement of all claims by Natives and Native groups of Alaska, based on aboriginal land claims;

(b) the settlement should be accomplished rapidly, with certainty, in conformity with the real economic and social needs of Natives, without litigation, with maximum participation by Natives in decisions affecting their rights and property, without establishing any permanent racially defined institutions, rights, privileges, or obligations, without creating a reservation system or lengthy wardship or trusteeship, and without adding to the categories of property and institutions enjoying special tax privileges or to the legislation establishing special relationships between the United States Government and the State of Alaska;

(c) no provision of this Act shall replace or diminish any right, privilege, or obligation of Natives as citizens of the United States or of Alaska, or relieve, replace, or diminish any obligation of the United States or of the State or Alaska to protect and promote the rights or welfare of Natives as citizens of the United States or of Alaska; the Secretary is authorized and directed, together with other appropriate agencies of the United States Government, to make a study of all Federal programs primarily designed to benefit Native people and to report back to the Congress with his recommendations for the future management and operation of these programs within three years of the date of enactment of this Act;

(d) no provision of this Act shall constitute a precedent for reopening, renegotiating, or legislating upon any past settlement involving land claims or other matters with any Native organizations, or any tribe, band, or identifiable group of American Indians;

(e) no provision of this Act shall effect a change or changes in the petroleum reserve policy reflected in sections 7421 through 7438 of title 10 of the United States Code except as specifically provided in this Act;

(f) no provision of this Act shall be construed to constitute a jurisdictional act, to confer jurisdiction to sue, nor to grant implied consent to Natives to sue the United States or any of its officers with respect to the claims extinguished by the operation of this Act; and

(g) no provision of this Act shall be construed to terminate or otherwise curtail the activities of the Economic Development Administration or other Federal agencies conducting loan or loan and grant programs in Alaska. For this purpose only, the terms "Indian reservation" and "trust or restricted Indian-owned land areas" in Public Law 89-136, the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended, shall be interpreted to include lands granted to Natives under this Act as long as such lands remain in the ownership of the Native villages or the Regional Corporations.

70A Stat. 457;  
76 Stat. 904.

79 Stat. 552.  
42 USC 3121  
note.

(b) During a period of three years from the date of enactment of this Act, each Village Corporation for the villages listed in subsection (a) shall select, in accordance with rules established by the Secretary, an area equal to 23,040 acres, which must include the township or townships in which all or part of the Native village is located, plus, to the extent necessary, withdrawn lands from the townships that are contiguous to or corner on such township. All selections shall be contiguous and in reasonably compact tracts, except as separated by bodies of water, and shall conform as nearly as practicable to the United States Lands Survey System.

(c) The funds appropriated by the Act of July 9, 1968 (82 Stat. 307), to pay the judgment of the Court of Claims in the case of The Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska, et al. against The United States, numbered 47,900, and distributed to the Tlingit and Haida Indians pursuant to the Act of July 13, 1970 (84 Stat. 431), are in lieu of the additional acreage to be conveyed to qualified villages listed in section 11.

25 USC 1211.

## JOINT FEDERAL-STATE LAND USE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR ALASKA

Establishment.  
Membership.

**SEC. 17.** (a) (1) There is hereby established the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission for Alaska. The Planning Commission shall be composed of ten members as follows:

(A) The Governor of the State (or his designate) and four members who shall be appointed by the Governor. During the Planning Commission's existence at least one member appointed by the Governor shall be a Native as defined by this Act.

(B) One member appointed by the President of the United States with the advice and consent of the Senate, and four members who shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) The Governor of the State and the member appointed by the President pursuant to subsection (a) (1) (B), shall serve as cochairmen of the Planning Commission. The initial meeting of the Commission shall be called by the cochairmen. All decisions of the Commission shall require the concurrence of the cochairmen.

(3) Six members of the Planning Commission shall constitute a quorum. Members shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority. A vacancy in the membership of the Commission shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

Compensation.

(4) (A) Except to the extent otherwise provided in subparagraph (B) of this subsection, members of the Planning Commission shall receive compensation at the rate of \$100 per day for each day they are engaged in the performance of their duties as members of the Commission. All members of the Commission shall be entitled to reimbursement for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties as members of the Commission.

(B) Any member of the Planning Commission who is designated or appointed from the Government of the United States or from the Government of the State shall serve without compensation in addition to that received in his regular employment. The member of the Commission appointed by the President pursuant to subsection (a) (1) (B) shall be compensated as provided by the President at a rate not in excess of that provided for level V of the Executive Schedule in title 5, United States Code.

(5) Subject to such rules and regulations as may be adopted by the Planning Commission, the cochairmen, without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the

80 Stat. 463;  
83 Stat. 864,  
5 USC 5316.

5 USC 101 *et seq.*

competitive service, and without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, shall have the power—

(A) to appoint and fix the compensation of such staff personnel as they deem necessary, and

(B) to procure temporary and intermittent services to the same extent as is authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, but at rates not to exceed \$100 a day for individuals.

(6) (A) The Planning Commission or, on the authorization of the Commission, any subcommittee or member thereof, may, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this section, hold such hearings, take such testimony, receive such evidence, print or otherwise reproduce and distribute so much of its proceedings and reports thereon, and sit and act at such times and places as the Commission, subcommittee, or member deems advisable.

(B) Each department, agency, and instrumentality of the executive branch of the Federal Government, including independent agencies, is authorized and directed to furnish to the Commission, upon request made by a cochairman, such information as the Commission deems necessary to carry out its functions under this section.

(7) The Planning Commission shall—

(A) undertake a process of land-use planning, including the identification of and the making of recommendations concerning areas planned and best suited for permanent reservation in Federal ownership as parks, game refuges, and other public uses, areas of Federal and State lands to be made available for disposal, and uses to be made of lands remaining in Federal and State ownership;

(B) make recommendations with respect to proposed land selections by the State under the Alaska Statehood Act and by Village and Regional Corporations under this Act;

(C) be available to advise upon and assist in the development and review of land-use plans for lands selected by the Native Village and Regional Corporations under this Act and by the State under the Alaska Statehood Act;

(D) review existing withdrawals of Federal public lands and recommend to the President of the United States such additions to or modifications of withdrawals as are deemed desirable;

(E) establish procedures, including public hearings, for obtaining public views on the land-use planning programs of the State and Federal Governments for lands under their administration;

(F) establish a committee of land-use advisers to the Commission, made up of representatives of commercial and industrial land users in Alaska, recreational land users, wilderness users, environmental groups, Alaska Natives, and other citizens;

(G) make recommendations to the President of the United States and the Governor of Alaska as to programs and budgets of the Federal and State agencies responsible for the administration of Federal and State lands;

(H) make recommendations from time to time to the President of the United States, Congress, and the Governor and legislature of the State as to changes in laws, policies, and programs that the Planning Commission determines are necessary or desirable;

(I) make recommendations to insure that economic growth and development is orderly, planned and compatible with State and national environmental objectives, the public interest in the public lands, parks, forests, and wildlife refuges in Alaska, and the economic and social well-being of the Native people and other residents of Alaska;

80 Stat. 443,  
467.  
5 USC 5101,  
5331.  
5 USC 5332  
note.

80 Stat. 416.  
Hearings.

Information,  
availability.

72 Stat. 339.  
48 USC prec.,  
21 note.

(J) make recommendations to improve coordination and consultation between the State and Federal Governments in making resource allocation and land use decisions; and

(K) make recommendations on ways to avoid conflict between the State and the Native people in the selection of public lands.

Report to  
President and  
Congress of U.S.,  
Governor and  
legislature of  
Alaska.  
Recordkeeping.

(8) (A) On or before January 31 of each year, the Planning Commission shall submit to the President of the United States, the Congress, and the Governor and legislature of the State a written report with respect to its activities during the preceding calendar year.

(B) The Planning Commission shall keep and maintain accurate and complete records of its activities and transactions in carrying out its duties under this Act, and such records shall be available for public inspection.

(C) The principal office of the Planning Commission shall be located in the State.

(9) (A) The United States shall be responsible for paying for any fiscal year only 50 per centum of the costs of carrying out subsections (a) and (b) for such fiscal year.

Appropriation.

(B) For the purpose of meeting the responsibility of the United States in carrying out the provisions of this section, there is authorized to be appropriated \$1,500,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1972, and for each succeeding fiscal year.

Final report.

(10) On or before May 30, 1976, the Planning Commission shall submit its final report to the President of the United States, the Congress, and the Governor and Legislature of the State with respect to its planning and other activities under this Act, together with its recommendations for programs or other actions which it determines should be taken or carried out by the United States and the State. The Commission shall cease to exist effective December 31, 1976.

Termination  
date.

Public ease-  
ments.

(b) (1) The Planning Commission shall identify public easements across lands selected by Village Corporations and the Regional Corporations and at periodic points along the courses of major waterways which are reasonably necessary to guarantee international treaty obligations, a full right of public use and access for recreation, hunting, transportation, utilities, docks, and such other public uses as the Planning Commission determines to be important.

(2) In identifying public easements the Planning Commission shall consult with appropriate State and Federal agencies, shall review proposed transportation plans, and shall receive and review statements and recommendations from interested organizations and individuals on the need for and proposed location of public easements: *Provided*, That any valid existing right recognized by this Act shall continue to have whatever right of access as is now provided for under existing law and this subsection shall not operate in any way to diminish or limit such right of access.

(3) Prior to granting any patent under this Act to the Village Corporation and Regional Corporations, the Secretary shall consult with the State and the Planning Commission and shall reserve such public easements as he determines are necessary.

(c) In the event that the Secretary withdraws a utility and transportation corridor across public lands in Alaska pursuant to his existing authority, the State, the Village Corporations and the Regional Corporations shall not be permitted to select lands from the area withdrawn.

Unreserved  
public land, with-  
drawal.

(d) (1) Public Land Order Numbered 4582, 34 Federal Register 1025, as amended, is hereby revoked. For a period of ninety days after the date of enactment of this Act all unreserved public lands in Alaska are hereby withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining (except locations for metalliferous