

Public Law 95-195
95th Congress

An Act

To restore the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon as a federally recognized sovereign Indian tribe, to restore to the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon and its members those Federal services and benefits furnished to federally recognized American Indian tribes and their members, and for other purposes.

Nov. 18, 1977
[S. 1560]

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 "Siletz Indian Tribe Restoration Act".

SEC. 2. For the purposes of this Act—

(1) the term "tribe" means the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon;

(2) the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior or his authorized representative;

(3) the term "Interim Council" means the council elected pursuant to section 5;

(4) the term "member", when used with respect to the tribe, means a person enrolled on the membership roll of the tribe, as provided in section 4 of this Act; and

(5) the term "final membership roll" means the final membership roll of the tribe published on July 20, 1956, on pages 5454-5462 of volume 21 of the Federal Register.

SEC. 3. (a) Federal recognition is hereby extended to the tribe, and the provisions of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984) as amended, except as inconsistent with specific provisions of this Act, are made applicable to the tribe and the members of the tribe. The tribe and the members of the tribe shall be eligible for all Federal services and benefits furnished to federally recognized Indian tribes. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in any law establishing such services or benefits, eligibility of the tribe and its members for such Federal services and benefits shall become effective upon enactment of this Act without regard to the existence of a reservation for the tribe or the residence of members of the tribe on a reservation.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (c), all rights and privileges of the tribe and of members of the tribe under any Federal treaty, Executive order, agreement, or statute, or under any other authority, which were diminished or lost under the Act of August 13, 1954 (68 Stat. 724), are hereby restored, and such Act shall be inapplicable to the tribe and to members of the tribe after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) This Act shall not grant or restore any hunting, fishing, or trapping right of any nature, including any indirect or procedural right or advantage, to the tribe or any member of the tribe, nor shall it be construed as granting, establishing, or restoring a reservation for the tribe.

(d) Except as specifically provided in this Act, nothing in this Act shall alter any property right or obligation, any contractual right or obligation, or any obligation for taxes already levied.

Siletz Indian
Tribe Restoration
Act.
25 USC 711 note.
Definitions.
25 USC 711.

Federal
recognition.
25 USC 711a.
25 USC 461.
Federal services
and benefits,
eligibility.
Effective date.

Rights and
privileges,
restoration.
25 USC 691.

Hunting, fishing,
or trapping rights
and tribal
reservation,
nonrestoration.

Open
membership roll.
25 USC 711b.

SEC. 4. (a) The final membership roll is declared open. The Secretary, the Interim Council, and tribal officials under the tribal constitution and bylaws shall take such measures as will insure the continuing accuracy of the membership roll.

(b) (1) Until after the initial election of tribal officers under the tribal constitution and bylaws, a person shall be a member of the tribe and his name shall be placed on the membership roll if he is living and if—

(A) his name is listed on the final membership roll;

(B) he was entitled on August 13, 1954, to be on the final membership roll but his name was not listed on that roll; or

(C) he is a descendant of a person specified in subparagraph

(A) or (B) and possesses at least one-fourth degree of blood of members of the tribe or their Siletz Indian ancestors.

(2) After the initial election of tribal officials under the tribal constitution and bylaws, the provisions of the tribal constitution and bylaws shall govern membership in the tribe.

Verification
oaths,
determination.

(c) (1) Before election of the Interim Council, verification of descendancy, age, and blood shall be made upon oath before the Secretary and his determination thereon shall be final.

(2) After election of the Interim Council and before the initial election of the tribal officials, verification of descendancy, age, and blood shall be made upon oath before the Interim Council, or its authorized representative. A member of the tribe, with respect to the inclusion of any name, and any person, with respect to the exclusion of his name, may appeal to the Secretary, who shall make a final determination of each such appeal within ninety days after an appeal has been filed with him. The determination of the Secretary with respect to an appeal under this paragraph shall be final.

Appeal and
determination.

Records, files,
and materials,
delivery to tribe.

(3) After the initial election of tribal officials, the provisions of the tribal constitution and bylaws shall govern the verification of any requirements for membership in the tribe, and the Secretary and the Interim Council shall deliver their records and files, and any other material relating to enrollment matters, to the tribal governing body.

Franchisement.

(d) For purposes of sections 5 and 6, a member who is eighteen years of age or older is entitled and eligible to be given notice of, attend, participate in, and vote at, general council meetings and to nominate candidates for, to run for any office in, and to vote in, elections of members to the Interim Council and to other tribal councils.

Interim Council
members,
nomination and
election.
25 USC 711c.

SEC. 5. (a) Within forty-five days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall announce the date of a general council meeting of the tribe to nominate candidates for election to the Interim Council. Such general council meeting shall be held within sixty days after the date of the enactment of this Act. Within forty-five days after such general council meeting the Secretary shall hold an election by secret ballot, absentee balloting to be permitted, to elect nine members of the tribe to the Interim Council from among the nominees submitted to him from such general council meeting. The Secretary shall assure that notice of the time, place, and purpose of such meeting and election shall be provided to members described in section 4(d) at least fifteen days before such general meeting and election. The ballot shall provide for write-in votes. The Secretary shall approve the Interim Council elected pursuant to this section if he is satisfied that the requirements of this section relating to the nominating and election process have been met. If he is not so satisfied, he shall hold

Meeting, notice.

Write-in votes.
Approval.

another election under this section, with the general council meeting to nominate candidates for election to the Interim Council to be held within sixty days after such election.

(b) The Interim Council shall represent the tribe and its members in the implementation of this Act and shall be the acting tribal governing body until tribal officials are elected pursuant to section 6(c) and shall have no powers other than those given to it in accordance with this Act. The Interim Council shall have full authority and capacity to receive grants from and to make contracts with the Secretary and the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare with respect to Federal services and benefits for the tribe and its members and to bind the tribal governing body as the successor in interest to the Interim Council for a period extending not more than six months after the date on which the tribal governing body takes office. Except as provided in the preceding sentence, the Interim Council shall have no power or authority after the time when the duly-elected tribal governing body takes office: *Provided*, That no authority to make payments under this Act shall be effective except to such extent or in such amounts as are provided in advance in appropriation Acts.

(c) Within thirty days after receiving notice of a vacancy on the Interim Council, the Interim Council shall hold a general council meeting for the purpose of electing a person to fill such vacancy. The Interim Council shall provide notice of the time, place, and purpose of such meeting and election to members described in section 4(d) at least ten days before such general meeting and election. The person nominated to fill such vacancy at the general council meeting who received the highest number of votes in the election shall fill such vacancy.

SEC. 6. (a) Upon the written request of the Interim Council, the Secretary shall conduct an election by secret ballot, pursuant to the provisions of section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 987), for the purpose of adopting a constitution and bylaws for the tribes. The election shall be held within sixty days after the Secretary has—

(1) reviewed and updated the final membership roll for accuracy, in accordance with sections 4(a), 4(b)(1), and 4(c)(1),

(2) made a final determination of all appeals filed under section 4(c)(2), and

(3) published in the Federal Register a certification copy of the membership roll of the tribe.

(b) The Interim Council shall draft and distribute to each member described in section 4(d), no later than thirty days before the election under subsection (a), a copy of the proposed constitution and bylaws of the tribe, as drafted by the Interim Council, along with a brief, impartial description of the proposed constitution and bylaws. The members of the Interim Council may freely consult with members of the tribe concerning the text and description of the constitution and bylaws, except that such consultation may not be carried on within fifty feet of the polling places on the date of the election.

(c) In any election held pursuant to subsection (a), the vote of a majority of those actually voting shall be necessary and sufficient for the adoption of a tribal constitution and bylaws.

(d) Not later than one hundred and twenty days after the tribe adopts a constitution and bylaws, the Interim Council shall conduct an election by secret ballot for the purpose of electing the individuals who will serve as tribal officials as provided in the tribal constitution and

Interim Council.
Functions.

Services and
benefits, grants
and contracts.

Council
vacancies.
Election, notice.

Constitution and
bylaws, adoption.
Secret ballot,
request.
25 USC 711d.
25 USC 476.
Roll, review.

Certified copy,
publication in
Federal Register.
Copies and
description,
distribution.

Consultation.

Tribal officials,
election by secret
ballot.

bylaws. For the purpose of this election and notwithstanding any provision in the tribal constitution and bylaws to the contrary, absentee balloting shall be permitted.

SEC. 7. (a) Any reservation for the tribe shall be established by an Act of Congress enacted after the enactment of this Act.

(b) Inasmuch as the reservation of the tribe has been terminated, the Secretary shall negotiate with the tribe, or with representatives of the tribe chosen by the tribe, concerning the establishment of a reservation for the tribe and shall, in accordance with subsections (c) and (d) and within two years after the date of enactment of this Act, develop a plan for the establishment of a reservation for the tribe. Upon approval of such plan by the tribal officials elected under the tribal constitution and bylaws adopted pursuant to section 6, the Secretary shall submit such plan, in the form of proposed legislation, to the Congress.

(c) To assure that legitimate State and local interests are not prejudiced by the creation of a reservation for the tribe, the Secretary, in developing a plan under subsection (b) for the establishment of a reservation, shall notify and consult with all appropriate officials of the State of Oregon, all appropriate local governmental officials in the State of Oregon and any other interested parties. Such consultation shall include the following subjects:

- (1) the size and location of the reservation;
- (2) the effect the establishment of the reservation would have on State and local tax revenues;
- (3) the criminal and civil jurisdiction of the State of Oregon with respect to the reservation and persons on the reservation;
- (4) hunting, fishing, and trapping rights of the tribe and members of the tribe, on the reservation;
- (5) the provision of State and local services to the reservation and to the tribe and members of the tribe on the reservation; and
- (6) the provision of Federal services to the reservation and to the tribe and members of the tribe and the provision of services by the tribe to members of the tribe.

(d) Any plan developed under this section for the establishment of a reservation for the tribe shall provide that—

- (1) any real property transferred by the tribe or members of the tribe to the Secretary shall be taken in the name of the United States in trust for the benefit of the tribe and shall be the reservation for the tribe;
- (2) the establishment of such a reservation will not grant or restore to the tribe or any member of the tribe any hunting, fishing, or trapping right of any nature, including any indirect or procedural right or advantage, on such reservation;
- (3) the Secretary shall not accept any real property in trust for the benefit of the tribe or its members unless such real property is located within Lincoln County, State of Oregon;
- (4) any real property taken in trust by the Secretary for the benefit of the tribe or its members shall be subject to all rights existing at the time such property is taken in trust, including liens, outstanding Federal, State, and local taxes, mortgages, outstanding indebtedness of any kind, easements, and all other obligations, and shall be subject to foreclosure and sale in accordance with the laws of the State of Oregon;

Reservation,
establishment.
25 USC 711e.
Plan, negotiation
with tribe and
approval.

Submittal to
Congress.

Notification and
consultation.

Plan provisions.

Real property in
trust.

(5) the transfer of any real property to the Secretary in trust for the benefit of the tribe or its members shall be exempt from all Federal, State, and local taxation, and all such real property shall, as of the date of such transfer, be exempt from Federal, State, and local taxation; and

Taxation,
exemption.

(6) the State of Oregon shall have civil and criminal jurisdiction with respect to the reservation and persons on the reservation in accordance with section 1360 of title 28, United States Code, and section 1162 of title 18, United States Code.

(e) The Secretary shall append to the plan a detailed statement describing the manner in which the notification and consultation prescribed by subsection (c) was carried out and shall include any written comments with respect to the establishment of a reservation for the tribe submitted to the Secretary by State and local officials and other interested parties in the course of such consultation.

Statement,
appendage to
plan.

SEC. 8. The Secretary may make such rules and regulations as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

Rules and
regulations.
25 USC 711f.

Approved November 18, 1977.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 95-623 accompanying H.R. 7259 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).

SENATE REPORT No. 95-386 (Comm. on Indian Affairs).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 123 (1977):

Aug. 5, considered and passed Senate.

Nov. 1, considered and passed House, amended, in lieu of H.R. 7259.

Nov. 3, Senate concurred in House amendment.