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SUBCHAPTER I—RHODE ISLAND INDIAN
 CLAIMS SETTLEMENT

PART A—GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 1701. Congressional findings and declaration of policy

Congress finds and declares that—

(a) there are pending before the United States District Court for the District of Rhode

Island two consolidated actions that involve Indian claims to certain public and private lands within the town of Charlestown, Rhode Island;

(b) the pendency of these lawsuits has resulted in severe economic hardships for the residents of the town of Charlestown by clouding the titles to much of the land in the town, including lands not involved in the lawsuits;

(c) the Congress shares with the State of Rhode Island and the parties to the lawsuits a desire to remove all clouds on titles resulting from such Indian land claims within the State of Rhode Island; and

(d) the parties to the lawsuits and others interested in the settlement of Indian land claims within the State of Rhode Island have executed a Settlement Agreement which requires implementing legislation by the Congress of the United States and the legislature of the State of Rhode Island.

(Pub. L. 95-395, § 2, Sept. 30, 1978, 92 Stat. 813.)

SHORT TITLE

Section 1 of Pub. L. 95-395 provided: "That this Act [enacting this subchapter] may be cited as the 'Rhode Island Indian Claims Settlement Act'."

For short title of Pub. L. 96-420, which enacted subchapter II of this chapter, as the "Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1980", see section 1 of Pub. L. 96-420, set out as a note under section 1721 of this title.

For short title of Pub. L. 97-399, which enacted subchapter III of this chapter, as the "Florida Indian Land Claims Settlement Act of 1982", see section 1 of Pub. L. 97-399, set out as a note under section 1741 of this title.

For short title of Pub. L. 98-134, which enacted subchapter IV of this chapter, as the "Mashantucket Pequot Indian Claims Settlement Act", see section 1 of Pub. L. 98-134, set out as a note under section 1751 of this title.

For short title of Pub. L. 100-95, which enacted subchapter V of this chapter, as the "Wampanoag Tribal Council of Gay Head, Inc., Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1987", see section 1 of Pub. L. 100-95, set out as a note under section 1771 of this title.

For short title of Pub. L. 100-228, which enacted subchapter VI of this chapter, as the "Seminole Indian Land Claims Settlement Act of 1987", see section 1 of Pub. L. 100-228, set out as a note under section 1772 of this title.

For short title of Pub. L. 101-41, which enacted subchapter VII of this chapter, as the "Puyallup Tribe of Indians Settlement Act of 1989", see section 1 of Pub. L. 101-41, set out as a note under section 1773 of this title.

For short title of Pub. L. 101-503, which enacted subchapter VIII of this chapter, as the "Seneca Nation Settlement Act of 1990", see section 1 of Pub. L. 101-503, set out as a note under section 1774 of this title.

For short title of Pub. L. 103-377, which enacted subchapter IX of this chapter, as the "Mohegan Nation of Connecticut Land Claims Settlement Act of 1994", see section 1 of Pub. L. 103-377, set out as a note under section 1775 of this title.

For short title of Pub. L. 103-444, which enacted subchapter X of this chapter, as the "Crow Boundary Settlement Act of 1994", see section 1 of Pub. L. 103-444, set out as a note under section 1776 of this title.

For short title of Pub. L. 106-425, which enacted subchapter XI of this chapter, as the "Santo Domingo Pueblo Claims Settlement Act of 2000", see section 1 of Pub. L. 106-425, set out as a note under section 1777 of this title.

For short title of title VI of Pub. L. 106-568, which enacted subchapter XII of this chapter, as the "Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians Claims Settlement

Act", see section 601 of Pub. L. 106-568, set out as a note under section 1778 of this title.

For short title of title VI of Pub. L. 107-331, which enacted subchapter XIII of this chapter, as the "Cherokee, Choctaw, and Chickasaw Nations Claims Settlement Act", see section 601 of Pub. L. 107-331, set out as a note under section 1779 of this title.

For short title of Pub. L. 109-286, which enacted subchapter XIV of this chapter, as the "Pueblo de San Ildefonso Claims Settlement Act of 2005", see section 1 of Pub. L. 109-286, set out as a note under section 1780 of this title.

§ 1702. Definitions

For the purposes of this subchapter, the term—

(a) "Indian Corporation" means the Rhode Island nonbusiness corporation known as the "Narragansett Tribe of Indians";

(b) "land or natural resources" means any real property or natural resources, or any interest in or right involving any real property or natural resource, including but not limited to, minerals and mineral rights, timber and timber rights, water and water rights, and rights to hunt and fish;

(c) "lawsuits" means the actions entitled "Narragansett Tribe of Indians v. Southern Rhode Island Land Development Co., et al., C.A. No. 75-0006 (D.R.I.)" and "Narragansett Tribe of Indians v. Rhode Island Director of Environmental Management, C.A. No. 75-0005 (D.R.I.)";

(d) "private settlement lands" means approximately nine hundred acres of privately held land outlined in red in the map marked "Exhibit A" attached to the Settlement Agreement that are to be acquired by the Secretary from certain private landowners pursuant to sections 1704 and 1707 of this title;

(e) "public settlement lands" means the lands described in paragraph 2 of the Settlement Agreement that are to be conveyed by the State of Rhode Island to the State Corporation pursuant to legislation as described in section 1706 of this title;

(f) "settlement lands" means those lands defined in subsections (d) and (e) of this section;

(g) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior;

(h) "settlement agreement" means the document entitled "Joint Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Settlement of the Rhode Island Indian Land Claims", executed as of February 28, 1978, by representatives of the State of Rhode Island, of the town of Charlestown, and of the parties to the lawsuits, as filed with the Secretary of the State of Rhode Island;

(i) "State Corporation" means the corporation created or to be created by legislation enacted by the State of Rhode Island as described in section 1706 of this title; and

(j) "transfer" includes but is not limited to any sale, grant, lease, allotment, partition, or conveyance, any transaction the purpose of which was to effect a sale, grant, lease, allotment, partition, or conveyance, or any event or events that resulted in a change of possession or control of land or natural resources.

(Pub. L. 95-395, § 3, Sept. 30, 1978, 92 Stat. 813.)

§ 1703. Rhode Island Indian Claims Settlement Fund; establishment

There is hereby established in the United States Treasury a fund to be known as the Rhode Island Indian Claims Settlement Fund into which \$3,500,000 shall be deposited following the appropriation authorized by section 1710 of this title.

(Pub. L. 95-395, § 4, Sept. 30, 1978, 92 Stat. 814.)

§ 1704. Option agreements to purchase private settlement lands

(a) Acceptance of option agreement assignments; reasonableness of terms and conditions

The Secretary shall accept assignment of reasonable two-year option agreements negotiated by the Governor of the State of Rhode Island or his designee for the purchase of the private settlement lands: *Provided*, That the terms and conditions specified in such options are reasonable and that the total price for the acquisition of such lands, including reasonable costs of acquisition, will not exceed the amount specified in section 1703 of this title. If the Secretary does not determine that any such option agreement is unreasonable within sixty days of its submission, the Secretary will be deemed to have accepted the assignment of the option.

(b) Amount of payment

Payment for any option entered into pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be in the amount of 5 per centum of the fair market value of the land or natural resources as of the date of the agreement and shall be paid from the fund established by section 1703 of this title.

(c) Limitation on option fees

The total amount of the option fees paid pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall not exceed \$175,000.

(d) Application of option fee

The option fee for each option agreement shall be applied to the agreed purchase price in the agreement if the purchase of the defendant's land or natural resources is completed in accordance with the terms of the option agreement.

(e) Retention of option payment

The payment for each option may be retained by the party granting the option if the property transfer contemplated by the option agreement is not completed in accordance with the terms of the option agreement.

(Pub. L. 95-395, § 5, Sept. 30, 1978, 92 Stat. 814.)

§ 1705. Publication of findings

(a) Prerequisites; consequences

If the Secretary finds that the State of Rhode Island has satisfied the conditions set forth in section 1706 of this title, he shall publish such findings in the Federal Register and upon such publication—

(1) any transfer of land or natural resources located anywhere within the United States from, by, or on behalf of the Indian Corporation or any other entity presently or at any time in the past known as the Narragansett

Tribe of Indians, or any predecessor or successor in interest, member or stockholder thereof, and any transfer of land or natural resources located anywhere within the town of Charlestown, Rhode Island, by, from, or on behalf of any Indian, Indian nation, or tribe of Indians, including but not limited to a transfer pursuant to any statute of any State, shall be deemed to have been made in accordance with the Constitution and all laws of the United States that are specifically applicable to transfers of land or natural resources from, by, or on behalf of any Indian, Indian nation or tribe of Indians (including but not limited to the Trade and Intercourse Act of 1790, Act of July 22, 1790, ch. 33, sec. 4, 1 Stat. 137, and all amendments thereto and all subsequent versions thereof), and Congress does hereby approve any such transfer effective as of the date of said transfer;

(2) to the extent that any transfer of land or natural resources described in subsection (a) of this section may involve land or natural resources to which the Indian Corporation or any other entity presently or at any time in the past known as the Narragansett Tribe of Indians, or any predecessor or successor in interest, member or stockholder thereof, or any other Indian, Indian nation, or tribe of Indians, had aboriginal title, subsection (a) of this section shall be regarded as an extinguishment of such aboriginal title as of the date of said transfer; and

(3) by virtue of the approval of a transfer of land or natural resources effected by this section, or an extinguishment of aboriginal title effected thereby, all claims against the United States, any State or subdivision thereof, or any other person or entity, by the Indian Corporation or any other entity presently or at any time in the past known as the Narragansett Tribe of Indians, or any predecessor or successor in interest, member or stockholder thereof, or any other Indian, Indian nation, or tribe of Indians, arising subsequent to the transfer and based upon any interest in or right involving such land or natural resources (including but not limited to claims for trespass damages or claims for use and occupancy) shall be regarded as extinguished as of the date of the transfer.

(b) Maintenance of action; remedy

Any Indian, Indian nation, or tribe of Indians (other than the Indian Corporation or any other entity presently or at any time in the past known as the Narragansett Tribe of Indians, or any predecessor or successor in interest, member or stockholder thereof) whose transfer of land or natural resources was approved or whose aboriginal title or claims were extinguished by subsection (a) of this section may, within a period of one hundred and eighty days after publication of the Secretary's findings pursuant to this section, bring an action against the State Corporation in lieu of an action against any other person against whom a cause may have existed in the absence of this section. In any such action, the remedy shall be limited to a right of possession of the settlement lands.

(Pub. L. 95-395, § 6, Sept. 30, 1978, 92 Stat. 815.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Trade and Intercourse Act of 1790, Act of July 22, 1790, ch. 33, sec. 4, 1 Stat. 137, referred to in subsec. (a)(1), was not classified to the Code. See sections 177, 179, 180, 193, 194, 201, 229, 230, 251, 263, and 264 of this title.

§ 1706. Findings by Secretary

Section 1705 of this title shall not take effect until the Secretary finds—

(a) that the State of Rhode Island has enacted legislation creating or authorizing the creation of a State chartered corporation satisfying the following criteria:

(1) the corporation shall be authorized to acquire, perpetually manage, and hold the settlement lands;

(2) the corporation shall be controlled by a board of directors, the majority of the members of which shall be selected by the Indian Corporation or its successor, and the remaining members of which shall be selected by the State of Rhode Island; and

(3) the corporation shall be authorized, after consultation with appropriate State officials, to establish its own regulations concerning hunting and fishing on the settlement lands, which need not comply with regulations of the State of Rhode Island but which shall establish minimum standards for the safety of persons and protection of wildlife and fish stock; and

(b) that State of Rhode Island has enacted legislation authorizing the conveyance to the State Corporation of land and natural resources that substantially conform to the public settlement lands as described in paragraph 2 of the Settlement Agreement.

(Pub. L. 95-395, § 7, Sept. 30, 1978, 92 Stat. 816.)

§ 1707. Purchase and transfer of private settlement lands

(a) Determination by Secretary; assignment of settlement lands to State Corporation

When the Secretary determines that the State Corporation described in section 1706(a) of this title has been created and will accept the settlement lands, the Secretary shall exercise within sixty days the options entered into pursuant to section 1704 of this title and assign the private settlement lands thereby purchased to the State Corporation.

(b) Moneys remaining in fund

Any moneys remaining in the fund established by section 1703 of this title after the purchase described in subsection (a) of this section shall be returned to the general Treasury of the United States.

(c) Duties and liabilities of United States upon discharge of Secretary's duties; restriction on conveyance of settlement lands; affect on easements for public or private purposes

Upon the discharge of the Secretary's duties under sections 1704, 1705, 1706, and 1707 of this title, the United States shall have no further duties or liabilities under this subchapter with respect to the Indian Corporation or its successor, the State Corporation, or the settlement lands:

Provided, however, That if the Secretary subsequently acknowledges the existence of the Narragansett Tribe of Indians, then the settlement lands may not be sold, granted, or otherwise conveyed or leased to anyone other than the Indian Corporation, and no such disposition of the settlement lands shall be of any validity in law or equity, unless the same is approved by the Secretary pursuant to regulations adopted by him for that purpose: *Provided, however,* That nothing in this subchapter shall affect or otherwise impair the ability of the State Corporation to grant or otherwise convey (including any involuntary conveyance by means of eminent domain or condemnation proceedings) any easement for public or private purposes pursuant to the laws of the State of Rhode Island.

(Pub. L. 95-395, § 8, Sept. 30, 1978, 92 Stat. 816.)

§ 1708. Applicability of State law; treatment of settlement lands under Indian Gaming Regulatory Act

(a) In general

Except as otherwise provided in this subchapter, the settlement lands shall be subject to the civil and criminal laws and jurisdiction of the State of Rhode Island.

(b) Treatment of settlement lands under Indian Gaming Regulatory Act

For purposes of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.), settlement lands shall not be treated as Indian lands.

(Pub. L. 95-395, § 9, Sept. 30, 1978, 92 Stat. 817; Pub. L. 104-208, div. A, title I, § 101(d) [title III, § 330], Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-181, 3009-227.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, referred to in subsec. (b), is Pub. L. 100-497, Oct. 17, 1988, 102 Stat. 2467, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 29 (§ 2701 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2701 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

1996—Pub. L. 104-208 substituted “Applicability of State law; treatment of settlement lands under Indian Gaming Regulatory Act” for “Applicability of State law” in section catchline, designated existing provisions as subsec. (a) and inserted heading, and added subsec. (b).

§ 1709. Preservation of Federal benefits

Nothing contained in this subchapter or in any legislation enacted by the State of Rhode Island as described in section 1706 of this title shall affect or otherwise impair in any adverse manner any benefits received by the State of Rhode Island under the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of September 2, 1937 (16 U.S.C. 669-669(i)), or the Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act of August 9, 1950 (16 U.S.C. 777-777(k)).

(Pub. L. 95-395, § 10, Sept. 30, 1978, 92 Stat. 817.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of September 2, 1937, referred to in text, is act Sept. 2, 1937, ch. 899, 50 Stat. 917, as amended, also known as the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act, which is classified generally to chapter 5B (§ 669 et seq.) of Title

16, Conservation. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 669 of Title 16 and Tables.

The Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act of August 9, 1950, referred to in text, is act Aug. 9, 1950, ch. 658, 64 Stat. 430, as amended, also known as the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act and the Fish Restoration and Management Projects Act, which is classified generally to chapter 10B (§ 777 et seq.) of Title 16, Conservation. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 777 of Title 16 and Tables.

§ 1710. Authorization of appropriations

There is hereby authorized to be appropriated \$3,500,000 to carry out the purposes of this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 95-395, § 11, Sept. 30, 1978, 92 Stat. 817.)

§ 1711. Limitation of actions; jurisdiction

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any action to contest the constitutionality of this subchapter shall be barred unless the complaint is filed within one hundred and eighty days of September 30, 1978. Exclusive jurisdiction over any such action is hereby vested in the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island.

(Pub. L. 95-395, § 12, Sept. 30, 1978, 92 Stat. 817.)

§ 1712. Approval of prior transfers and extinguishment of claims and aboriginal title outside town of Charlestown, Rhode Island and involving other Indians in Rhode Island

(a) Scope of applicability

Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section—

(1) any transfer of land or natural resources located anywhere within the State of Rhode Island outside the town of Charlestown from, by, or on behalf of any Indian, Indian nation, or tribe of Indians (other than transfers included in and approved by section 1705 of this title), including but not limited to a transfer pursuant to any statute of any State, shall be deemed to have been made in accordance with the Constitution and all laws of the United States that are specifically applicable to transfers of land or natural resources from, by, or on behalf of any Indian, Indian nation, or tribe of Indians (including but not limited to the Trade and Intercourse Act of 1790, Act of July 22, 1790 (ch. 33, 1 Stat. 137), and all amendments thereto and all subsequent versions thereof), and Congress does hereby approve any such transfer effective as of the date of said transfer;

(2) to the extent that any transfer of land or natural resources described in paragraph (1) may involve land or natural resources to which such Indian, Indian nation, or tribe of Indians had aboriginal title, paragraph (1) shall be regarded as an extinguishment of such aboriginal title as of the date of said transfer; and

(3) by virtue of the approval of such transfers of land or natural resources effected by this subsection or an extinguishment of aboriginal title effected thereby, all claims against the United States, any State or sub-

division thereof, or any other person or entity, by any such Indian, Indian nation, or tribe of Indians, arising subsequent to the transfer and based upon any interest in or rights involving such land or natural resources (including but not limited to claims for trespass damages or claims for use and occupancy), shall be regarded as extinguished as of the date of the transfer.

(b) Exceptions

This section shall not apply to any claim, right, or title of any Indian, Indian nation, or tribe of Indians that is asserted in an action commenced in a court of competent jurisdiction within one hundred and eighty days of September 30, 1978: *Provided*, That the plaintiff in any such action shall cause notice of the action to be served upon the Secretary and the Governor of the State of Rhode Island.

(Pub. L. 95-395, §13, Sept. 30, 1978, 92 Stat. 817.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Trade and Intercourse Act of 1790, Act of July 22, 1790 (ch. 33, 1 Stat. 137), referred to in subsec. (a)(1), was not classified to the Code. See sections 177, 179, 180, 193, 194, 201, 229, 230, 251, 263, and 264 of this title.

PART B—TAX TREATMENT

§ 1715. Exemption from taxation

(a) General exemption

Except as otherwise provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, the settlement lands received by the State Corporation shall not be subject to any form of Federal, State, or local taxation while held by the State Corporation.

(b) Income-producing activities

The exemption provided in subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to any income-producing activities occurring on the settlement lands.

(c) Payments in lieu of taxes

Nothing in this subchapter shall prevent the making of payments in lieu of taxes by the State Corporation for services provided in connection with the settlement lands.

(Pub. L. 95-395, title II, §201, as added Pub. L. 96-601, §5(a), Dec. 24, 1980, 94 Stat. 3498.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 5(b) of Pub. L. 96-601 provided that: "The amendment made by subsection (a) [enacting this part] shall take effect on September 30, 1978."

§ 1716. Deferral of capital gains

For purposes of title 26, any sale or disposition of private settlement lands pursuant to the terms and conditions of the settlement agreement shall be treated as an involuntary conversion within the meaning of section 1033 of title 26.

(Pub. L. 95-395, title II, §202, as added Pub. L. 96-601, §5(a), Dec. 24, 1980, 94 Stat. 3499; amended Pub. L. 99-514, §2, Oct. 22, 1986, 100 Stat. 2095.)

AMENDMENTS

1986—Pub. L. 99-514 substituted "Internal Revenue Code of 1986" for "Internal Revenue Code of 1954" wher-

ever appearing, which for purposes of codification was translated as "title 26" thus requiring no change in text.

SUBCHAPTER II—MAINE INDIAN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT

§ 1721. Congressional findings and declaration of policy

(a) Findings and declarations

Congress hereby finds and declares that:

(1) The Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation, and the Maliseet Tribe are asserting claims for possession of lands within the State of Maine and for damages on the ground that the lands in question were originally transferred in violation of law, including, but without limitation, the Trade and Intercourse Act of 1790 (1 Stat. 137), or subsequent reenactments or versions thereof.

(2) The Indians, Indian nations, and tribes and bands of Indians, other than the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation, and the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, that once may have held aboriginal title to lands within the State of Maine long ago abandoned their aboriginal holdings.

(3) The Penobscot Nation, as represented as of the time of passage of this subchapter by the Penobscot Nation's Governor and Council, is the sole successor in interest to the aboriginal entity generally known as the Penobscot Nation which years ago claimed aboriginal title to certain lands in the State of Maine.

(4) The Passamaquoddy Tribe, as represented as of the time of passage of this subchapter by the Joint Tribal Council of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, is the sole successor in interest to the aboriginal entity generally known as the Passamaquoddy Tribe which years ago claimed aboriginal title to certain lands in the State of Maine.

(5) The Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, as represented as of the time of passage of this subchapter by the Houlton Band Council, is the sole successor in interest, as to lands within the United States, to the aboriginal entity generally known as the Maliseet Tribe which years ago claimed aboriginal title to certain lands in the State of Maine.

(6) Substantial economic and social hardship to a large number of landowners, citizens, and communities in the State of Maine, and therefore to the economy of the State of Maine as a whole, will result if the aforementioned claims are not resolved promptly.

(7) This subchapter represents a good faith effort on the part of Congress to provide the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation, and the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians with a fair and just settlement of their land claims. In the absence of congressional action, these land claims would be pursued through the courts, a process which in all likelihood would consume many years and thereby promote hostility and uncertainty in the State of Maine to the ultimate detriment of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, their members, and all other citizens of the State of Maine.