

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2615

AN ACT

To amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Village Corporations shall not be required to convey land in trust to the State of Alaska for the establishment of Municipal Corporations, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Alaska Native Village
3 Municipal Lands Restoration Act of 2023”.

4 **SEC. 2. REVERSION OF CERTAIN LAND CONVEYED IN**
5 **TRUST TO THE STATE OF ALASKA.**

6 Section 14(c) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement
7 Act (43 U.S.C. 1613(c)) is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through
9 (5) as subparagraphs (A) through (E), respectively,
10 and indenting appropriately;

11 (2) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)
12 (as so redesignated), by striking “(c) Each patent”
13 and inserting the following:

14 “(c) CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN LAND BY VILLAGE
15 CORPORATION.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each patent”;

17 (3) in paragraph (1) (as so designated), in the
18 undesignated matter following subparagraph (E) (as
19 so redesignated), in the first sentence—

20 (A) by striking “section 14(c) of this Act”
21 and inserting “this subsection”; and

22 (B) by striking “There is authorized” and
23 inserting the following:

24 “(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

25 “(A) IN GENERAL.—There are author-
26 ized”;

(4) in paragraph (2)(A) (as so redesignated), in the second sentence, by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(B) FORM OF FUNDING.—The Secretary”; and

(5) in paragraph (1) (as so designated)—

(A) in each of subparagraphs (A) and (B) (as so redesignated)—

(i) by striking “the” the first place it appears and inserting “The”; and

(ii) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period;

(B) in subparagraph (D) (as so redesignated), by striking “the” the first place it appears and inserting “The”;

(C) by striking “existed as of” in subparagraph (D) (as so redesignated) and all that follows through “for” in subparagraph (E) (as so redesignated) and inserting the following: “existed as of December 18, 1971.

“(E) For”; and

(D) in subparagraph (C) (as so redesignated)—

(i) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period;

(ii) by striking “in trust: *Provided, however, That the word*” and all that follows through “sentence,” and inserting the following: “in trust.

“(II) DEFINITION OF SALE.—

For purposes of subclause (I), the term ‘sale’ ”;

(iii) by striking “one thousand two hundred and eighty acres: *Provided further, That any net*” and inserting the following: “1,280 acres.

“(iii) NET REVENUES.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Any net”;

(iv) by striking “community needs: *Provided, That the*” and inserting the following: “community needs.

“(ii) MINIMUM ACREAGE.—The”;

(v) by striking “(C) the Village Corporation” and inserting the following:

“(C) CONVEYANCE TO MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OR THE STATE IN TRUST.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Village Corporation”; and

(vi) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(iv) CASES IN WHICH CONVEYANCE
2 SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED.—

3 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Notwith-
4 standing any other provision of this
5 subparagraph, if a Village Corpora-
6 tion, prior to the date of enactment of
7 the Alaska Native Village Municipal
8 Lands Restoration Act of 2023, con-
9 veyed to the State in trust all or a
10 portion of the acreage of land re-
11 quired to be conveyed under this sub-
12 paragraph for the establishment of a
13 Municipal Corporation in the future,
14 and a Municipal Corporation has not
15 been established as of that date of en-
16 actment, on formal resolution by the
17 Village Corporation and the residents
18 of the Native village requesting dis-
19 solution of the trust, the trust shall be
20 dissolved and title to the land shall re-
21 vert to the Village Corporation, sub-
22 ject to subclause (III).

23 “(II) ADDITIONAL LAND.—Not-
24 withstanding any other provision of
25 this subparagraph, as of the date of

1 enactment of the Alaska Native Vil-
 2 lage Municipal Lands Restoration Act
 3 of 2023, a Village Corporation shall
 4 not be required to convey any addi-
 5 tional land in trust under this sub-
 6 paragraph for the establishment of a
 7 Municipal Corporation in the future.

8 “(III) REQUIREMENTS.—In ac-
 9 cordance with subsection (g)—

10 “(aa) the reversion of land
 11 to a Village Corporation pursuant
 12 to subclause (I) shall be subject
 13 to—

14 “(AA) valid existing
 15 rights created by the appli-
 16 cable trust; and

17 “(BB) any existing
 18 easements, rights-of-way
 19 necessary for public roadway
 20 access, or rights-of-way for
 21 access of holders of valid ex-
 22 isting rights; and

23 “(bb) the Village Corpora-
 24 tion shall assume the obligations
 25 of the applicable trust with re-

1 spect to any lease or other use
2 agreement applicable to the land
3 on reversion of the land to the
4 Village Corporation pursuant to
5 subclause (I).”.

Passed the Senate December 18 (legislative day, December 16), 2024.

Attest:

Secretary.

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