

Calendar No. 187

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 622

[Report No. 119–78]

To amend the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation Restoration Act to provide for the transfer of additional Federal land to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 18, 2025

Ms. SMITH (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs

OCTOBER 14, 2025

Reported by Ms. MURKOWSKI, without amendment

A BILL

To amend the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation Restoration Act to provide for the transfer of additional Federal land to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, 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 “Leech Lake Reserva-
3 tion Restoration Amendments Act of 2025”.

4 **SEC. 2. TRANSFER OF ADDITIONAL FEDERAL LAND TO THE**
5 **LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—Section 2(a)(5) of the Leech Lake
7 Band of Ojibwe Reservation Restoration Act (Public Law
8 116–255; 134 Stat. 1140) is amended by striking sub-
9 paragraph (B) and inserting the following:

10 “(B) does not intend immediately to mod-
11 ify the use of the Federal land.”.

12 (b) INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL FEDERAL LAND.—
13 Section 2 of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation
14 Restoration Act (Public Law 116–255; 134 Stat. 1139)
15 is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (b)(1)—

17 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

18 (i) by striking “means the approxi-
19 mately” and inserting “means—

20 “(i) the approximately”;

21 (ii) in clause (i) (as so designated), by
22 striking the period at the end and inserting
23 “; and”; and

24 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
25 lowing:

“(ii) any other land managed by the Secretary, through the Chief of the Forest Service, located in the Chippewa National Forest in Cass County, Minnesota, which records maintained by the Bureau of Indian Affairs show was sold without the unanimous consent of the rightful landowners.”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as clauses (ii) and (iii), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting before clause (ii) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(i) any land transferred pursuant to an agreement entered into between the Secretary and the Tribe under subsection (c)(2);”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraphs (2) and (3)”;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

1 (C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
2 following:

3 “(2) AGREEMENT.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—On agreement be-
5 tween the Secretary and the Tribe, the Sec-
6 retary shall substitute, for purposes of the
7 transfer under paragraph (1), alternative Na-
8 tional Forest System land located in Cass
9 County, Minnesota, on an acre-for-acre basis,
10 for those parcels of Federal land to be trans-
11 ferred under that paragraph in a manner that
12 avoids in-holdings and provides a preference for
13 land adjacent to or near existing Leech Lake
14 trust lands and lands of cultural importance to
15 the Tribe, to the maximum extent practicable.

16 “(B) FREQUENCY OF TRANSFERS.—Pursu-
17 ant to an agreement entered into under sub-
18 paragraph (A), the Secretary may transfer land
19 to the Secretary of the Interior on a rolling
20 basis as that land is identified and surveys are
21 completed.”; and

22 (3) in subsection (d)—

23 (A) in paragraph (1)—

1 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
 2 “described in subsection (b)(1)(A)(i)” after
 3 “Federal land”; and

4 (ii) in subparagraph (B), in the mat-
 5 ter preceding clause (i), by striking “sub-
 6 mit a map and legal description of the
 7 Federal land” and inserting “submit maps
 8 and legal descriptions of the Federal land
 9 transferred pursuant to paragraphs (1)
 10 and (2) of subsection (c), as applicable,”;
 11 (B) in paragraph (2)—

12 (i) by striking “map and legal descrip-
 13 tion” and inserting “maps and legal de-
 14 scriptions”; and

15 (ii) by striking “map or legal descrip-
 16 tion” and inserting “maps or legal descrip-
 17 tions”; and

18 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “map
 19 and legal description” and inserting “maps and
 20 legal descriptions”.

21 (c) REAFFIRMATION.—Congress reaffirms the appli-
 22 cability of section 97A.151 of the Minnesota Statutes, in-
 23 cluding the settlement agreement ratified by that section,
 24 for purposes of ensuring that the hunting, fishing, and
 25 recreation rights of non-Tribal members remain un-

1 changed by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation
2 Restoration Act (Public Law 116–255; 134 Stat. 1139)
3 and the amendments made to that Act by this section.

4 (d) IMPLEMENTATION.—In implementing the amend-
5 ments made by this section, the Secretary of Agriculture,
6 acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall pro-
7 vide for public engagement and comment in accordance
8 with applicable laws (including regulations).

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