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SENATE

{ REPORT
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MICCOSUKEE RESERVED AREA AMENDMENTS ACT

OCTOBER 28, 2025.—Ordered to be printed

Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Indian Affairs,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 673]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to which was referred the bill (S. 673) to amend Miccosukee Reserved Area Act to authorize the expansion of the Miccosukee Reserved Area and to carry out activities to protect structures within the Osceola Camp from flooding, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill, do pass.

PURPOSE

S. 673 would amend the Miccosukee Reserved Area Act (MRAA) to authorize inclusion of the “Osceola Camp” into the Miccosukee Reserved Area and direct the Secretary of the Interior to act, in consultation with the Tribe, to protect the Camp from flooding.

BACKGROUND AND NEED

The Miccosukee Tribe is a federally recognized Indian Tribe whose reservation is located within the exterior boundaries of the Everglades National Park (ENP) in Miami-Dade, Florida. From 1964 to 1998, the Miccosukee Tribe lived and governed their own affairs on a strip of land on the northern edge of the ENP, known as the Special Use Permit Area, under permits from the National Park Service and other legal authority.¹

¹ Miccosukee Reserved Area Act (MRAA), Pub. L. No. 105–313, 112 Stat. 2964 (1998).

In 1998, Congress passed the *Miccosukee Reserved Area Act* (MRAA), which replaced the special use permit with a permanent legal framework that expanded the Miccosukee Tribe's Special Use Permit Area for its exclusive use, occupancy, and governance in perpetuity.² Congress expressly provided that such land, now known as the Miccosukee Reserved Area (MRA), would be considered "Indian Country" and treated as an Indian reservation.³ The MRAA reserved the federal government's ability to engage in activities for the restoration or protection of the South Florida ecosystem under federal law, and provided that the costs of such restoration would be borne by the federal government, including compensating the Miccosukee Tribe for any loss of Tribal structures within the MRA.⁴

The MRAA did not include the Osceola Camp, a residential village situated within the ENP and home to several families of the Miccosukee Tribe, in the MRA. Established in 1935, the Camp includes housing structures, water supply systems, roadways, and wastewater treatment systems, among other infrastructure. It is experiencing flooding caused by ecosystem restoration efforts from the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP),⁵ which are part of ongoing efforts to improve the ecological health of the ENP by diverting hundreds of thousands of acre-feet of water per year from Lake Okeechobee south to Florida Bay to increase and improve water flow. Consequently, buildings within the Camp need to be elevated in order to avoid a safety hazard to the residents and allow continued residential and commercial use of the site, which is in the middle of the project area.⁶

SUMMARY

S. 673 amends the MRAA to include Camp Osceola as part of the MRA and directs the Department of the Interior, in consultation with the Tribe, to take appropriate actions to protect structures within Camp Osceola from flooding.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

S. 673 was introduced by Senators Scott and Moody on February 20, 2025. The Committee held a business meeting on March 5, 2025, to consider S. 673 and ordered the bill to be reported favorably, without amendment, by voice vote.

H.R. 504, identical companion legislation to S. 673, was introduced by Representative Gimenez (R-FL-28) with Representatives Diaz-Balart (R-FL-26) and Salazar (R-FL-27) as cosponsors on January 16, 2025. Representative Soto (D-FL-9) was added as a cosponsor on February 5, 2025. H.R. 504 was referred to the House Committees on Natural Resources and Transportation and Infrastructure. The House Committee on Natural Resources held a mark-up session on June 6, 2025, and reported the bill, without amendment, by unanimous consent (H. Rept. 119-189). The House

²*Id.*

³MRAA § 5(c) (as defined in 18 U.S.C. 1151).

⁴MRAA § 8(e)(2)-(3).

⁵News Release, National Park Service, Everglades National Park Seeks public input on Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida Osceola Camp Cure Plan (Nov. 1, 2023) (on file with the Committee), <https://www.nps.gov/ever/learn/news/osceola-cure-plan-ea.htm>.

⁶*Id.*

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure discharged the bill on July 10, 2025. H.R. 504 passed the House of Representatives by voice vote, on July 14, 2025.

In the 118th Congress, a similar bill S. 2783, was introduced by Senators Rubio and Scott on September 13, 2023. The Committee held a hearing on S. 2783 on July 10, 2024 (S. Hrg. 118–530). On July 25, 2024, the Committee held a business meeting to consider S. 2783 and ordered the bill reported favorably, without amendment (S. Rept. 118–245). S. 2783 passed the Senate on December 12, 2024, by voice vote.

On September 18, 2023, Representatives Gimenez (R–FL–28) and Diaz-Balart (R–FL–26) introduced H.R. 5537, identical companion legislation to S. 2783, which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in an open business meeting on March 5, 2025, by a majority voice vote of a quorum present, recommends that the Senate pass, S. 673, without amendment.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1—Short title

This section sets forth the short title as the “Miccosukee Reserved Area Amendments Act.”

Section 2—Miccosukee Reserved Area addition

This section amends the *Miccosukee Reserved Area Act* to include “Camp Osceola” as part of the Miccosukee Reserved Area.

Section 3—Protection of the Osceola Camp from flooding

This section amends the *Miccosukee Reserved Area Act* to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take appropriate actions to protect structures within Osceola Camp from flooding within two years of enactment and in consultation with the Miccosukee Tribe.

COST AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS

S. 673, Miccosukee Reserved Area Amendments Act			
As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on March 5, 2025			
By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2025	2025-2030	2025-2035
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	*	not estimated
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036?	No	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No
		Mandate Effects	
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

S. 673 would amend the Miccosukee Reserved Area Act to add the Osceola Camp, a tract of land in the Everglades National Park in Florida, to the federally reserved area for the Miccosukee Tribe. Under the bill, the Osceola Camp would be subject to the tribe's rights, responsibilities, and restrictions. The bill also would require the Department of the Interior to implement flood protection measures for structures in the camp within two years of enactment.

Based on information from the National Park Service, CBO expects that existing efforts to protect structures in the camp from flooding would fulfill the requirements in the bill. On that basis, CBO expects that implementing S. 673 would have insignificant costs over the 2025–2030 period. Any related spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Alaina Rhee. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director, Congressional Budget Office.

REGULATORY AND PAPERWORK IMPACT STATEMENT

Paragraph 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate requires each report accompanying a bill to evaluate the regulatory and paperwork impact that would be incurred in carrying out the bill. The Committee believes that S. 673, as reported, will have minimal impact on regulatory or paperwork requirements.

EXECUTIVE TESTIMONY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The testimony provided by the U.S. Department of the Interior from the July 10, 2024, hearing on S. 2783 follows:

STATEMENT OF JASON FREIHAGE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF MANAGEMENT FOR INDIAN AFFAIRS U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

S. 2783, MICCOSUKEE RESERVED AREA AMENDMENTS ACT

Good afternoon, Chairman Schatz, Vice Chairman Murkowski, and members of the Committee. My name is Jason Freihage, and I am the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Management for Indian Affairs at the Department of the Interior (Department). Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on S. 2783, "Miccosukee Reserved Area Amendments Act."

S. 2783, Miccosukee Reserved Area Amendments Act

S. 2783 would amend the Miccosukee Reserved Area Act by authorizing expansion of the Miccosukee Reserved Area to include Osceola Camp (Camp), which is situated within the boundary of Everglades National Park. The bill would uphold the sovereignty of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians and ensure the Camp remains within the landscape of Everglades National Park in perpetuity. The NPS currently authorizes management of the Camp through a Special Use Permit; this bill would ensure permanence and protection of the Camp and eliminate the need for recurring permit approval. Additionally, the bill would authorize appropriations of such sums as necessary, but not more than a total of \$14,000,000, to safeguard structures within the Camp from flooding events.

The Department supports S. 2783.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with subsection 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee waives the requirement to detail changes in existing law to expedite the business of the Senate.

