Public Law 97-399
97th Congress

An Act

Dec. 31, 1982
[H.R. 7155]

To settle certain Indian land claims within the State of Florida, and for other purposes.

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 "Florida Indian Land Claims Settlement Act of 1982".

Florida Indian Land Claims Settlement Act of 1982.
25 USC 1741 note.

CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF POLICY

25 USC 1741.

SEC. 2. Congress finds and declares that—

(1) there is pending before the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida a lawsuit by the Miccosukee Indian Tribe which involves certain lands within the State of Florida;

(2) the pendency of such lawsuit may result in economic hardships for residents of the State of Florida by clouding the titles to lands in the State, including lands not now involved in the lawsuits;

(3) the pendency of such lawsuit also has clouded the easement rights of the South Florida Water Management District in lands necessary for use as a water flowage and storage area, which is part of a federally authorized project for flood control and water management in central and southern Florida, and which is being used to provide and regulate a water supply for the residents of South Florida;

(4) the State of Florida and the Miccosukee Indian Tribe have executed agreements for the purposes of resolving tribal land claims and settling such lawsuit, which agreements require implementing legislation by the Congress of the United States and the Legislature of the State of Florida; and

(5) Congress shares with the parties to such agreements a desire to settle such Indian claims in the State of Florida without additional cost to the United States.

DEFINITIONS

25 USC 1742.

SEC. 3. For purposes of this Act—

(1) The term "Miccosukee Tribe" means the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, a tribe of American Indians recognized by the United States and organized under section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 987; 25 U.S.C. 476) and recognized by the State of Florida pursuant to chapter 285, Florida Statutes.

(2) The term "State of Florida" means the State of Florida, its agencies, political subdivisions, constitutional officers, officials of its agencies and subdivisions, and the South Florida Water Management District.

(3) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

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(4) The term "lands or natural resources" means any real property or natural resources, or any interest in or right involving any real property or natural resources including but not limited to minerals and mineral rights, timber and timber rights, water and water rights, and rights to hunt and fish.

(5) The term "lawsuit" means the action in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, entitled Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida against State of Florida, et al., Case No. 79-253-CIV-JWK.

(6) The term "Lease Agreement" means that perpetual lease granted by the State of Florida to the Miccosukee Tribe, involving a specifically described area in South Florida, title to which is held by the State of Florida and in which the Miccosukee Tribe is granted certain express rights and interests.

(7) The term "settlement funds" means those amounts of money which the State of Florida has agreed to pay to the Miccosukee Tribe under the Settlement Agreement in partial consideration for the settlement of the lawsuit and the extinguishment of rights to all potential or unsettled claims which the Miccosukee Tribe may have to lands or natural resources in the State of Florida.

(8) The term "Settlement Agreement" means those documents entitled "Settlement Agreement between the Miccosukee Tribe and the State of Florida" executed on April 16, 1982, by representatives of the State of Florida and representatives of the Miccosukee Tribe and filed with the secretary of state of the State of Florida which incorporate the Lease Agreement described in paragraph (6) of this section.

(9) The term "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 lands or natural resources.

FINDINGS BY THE SECRETARY

SEC. 4. Section 5 of this Act shall not take effect until the Secretary finds that the following events have occurred: Effective date restriction. 25 USC 1743.

(1) the State of Florida has enacted legislation appropriating sufficient money to pay, and in fact has paid, the settlement funds to the Miccosukee Tribe;

(2) the State of Florida and the Miccosukee Tribe have executed the Lease Agreement; and

(3) the State of Florida has enacted appropriate legislation to carry out its commitments under paragraph 1b of the Settlement Agreement between the State of Florida and the Miccosukee Tribe and has given the waiver specified in paragraph 4d of such Agreement.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR TRANSFERS AND EXTINGUISHMENT OF CLAIMS AND ABORIGINAL TITLE INVOLVING FLORIDA INDIANS

SEC. 5. (a) If the Secretary finds that the State of Florida has satisfied the conditions set forth in section 4 of this Act, he shall publish such findings and the Settlement Agreement in the Federal Register, and upon such publication— Publication in Federal Register. 25 USC 1744.

(1) the transfers, waivers, releases, relinquishments, and other commitments made by the Miccosukee Tribe in paragraph 3 of the Settlement Agreement between the State of Florida and the Miccosukee Tribe shall be of full force and effect on the terms and conditions therein stated; and

(2) the transfers, waivers, releases, relinquishments, and other commitments validated by paragraph (1) of this subsection and the transfers and extinguishments approved and validated by paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b) 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 lands or natural resources from, by, or on behalf of any Indian, Indian nation, or tribe of Indians (including but not limited to the Act of July 22, 1790 (1 Stat. 137) and any amendments thereto and all subsequent versions thereof), and Congress does hereby approve any such transfers effective as of the date of such transfers.

Extinguishment of claims.

(b)(1) All claims to lands within the State of Florida based upon aboriginal title by the Miccosukee Tribe, or any predecessor or successor in interest, are hereby extinguished, and any transfer of lands or natural resources located anywhere within the State of Florida, including but not limited to transfers pursuant to the statute or treaty of or with any State or the United States, by, from, or on behalf of the Miccosukee Tribe, or any predecessor or successor in interest, shall be deemed to be in full force and effect: *Provided, however,* That nothing herein shall be construed as extinguishing any aboriginal right, title, interest, or claim to lands or natural resources solely to the extent of the rights or interests defined as "excepted interests" in paragraph 3c of the Settlement Agreement between the State of Florida and the Miccosukee Tribe.

(2) By virtue of the approval of a transfer of lands 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 Miccosukee Tribe, arising subsequent to the transfer and based upon any interest in or right involving such lands 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.

(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, nothing in this Act shall be construed as extinguishing any right, title, interest, or claim to lands or natural resources in the State of Florida by any individual Indian—

(A) which is based on use and occupancy, or

(B) which was acquired under Federal or State law,

and which is not derived from or through the Miccosukee Tribe, or its predecessor or predecessors in interest.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR MICCOSUKEE TRIBE

25 USC 1745.

SEC. 6. (a) The leasehold interest granted the Miccosukee Tribe under the Lease Agreement shall be exempt from all State and local taxes.

(b) The lands leased to the Miccosukee Tribe pursuant to the Lease Agreement shall be treated as if such lands constituted a federally recognized Indian reservation solely for purposes of determining the eligibility of the Miccosukee Tribe and its members for

any Federal health, education, employment, economic assistance, revenue sharing, law enforcement over Indians, or social welfare programs, or any other similar Federal program for which Indians are eligible because of their status as Indians and of their residence on an Indian reservation.

(c) The State of Florida, through exercise of the power of eminent domain, may take or diminish any interest granted to the Miccosukee Tribe under the Lease Agreement only for a public purpose and upon payment of just compensation, but such taking or diminution shall not require the approval of Congress or any executive officer of the United States.

(d) Nothing in this Act or in any grant of leasehold rights by the State of Florida under the Lease Agreement shall affect or otherwise impair in any adverse manner any benefits received by the State of Florida under the Act of September 2, 1937 (16 U.S.C. 669 et seq.), or the Act of August 9, 1950 (16 U.S.C. 777 et seq.).

SEC. 7. Nothing in this Act shall grant to the Miccosukee Tribe any greater rights or interests in the leased area other than those expressly set forth in the Lease Agreement, and, notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, nothing in this Act shall diminish, modify, or otherwise affect the extent of the civil and criminal jurisdiction of the State of Florida in the leased area. 25 USC 1746.

SEC. 8. (a) The Secretary is authorized and directed to accept the transfer to the United States, to be held in trust for the use and benefit of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, of the lands authorized to be conveyed to the Miccosukee Tribe by section 285.061, Florida Statutes, and the lands described in Dedication Deed No. 23228 from the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund subject to the provisions of section 285.061, Florida Statutes, and of this section. Land transfer authorization. 25 USC 1747.

(b)(1) Notwithstanding the conveyance of any lands by the State of Florida to the United States in trust for the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, the assumption of jurisdiction in favor of the State of Florida contained in section 285.16, Florida Statutes, pursuant to section 7 of the Act of August 15, 1953 (67 Stat. 588), as in effect prior to its repeal, shall continue in full force and effect on such lands unless the State shall retrocede such civil or criminal jurisdiction in whole or in part. 67 Stat. 590.

(2)(A) The laws of Florida relating to alcoholic beverages (chapters 561, 562, 563, 564, and 565, Florida Statutes), gambling (chapter 849, Florida Statutes), sale of cigarettes (chapter 210, Florida Statutes), and their successor laws, shall have the same force and effect within said transferred lands as they have elsewhere within the State and the State shall have jurisdiction over offenses committed by or against Indians under said laws to the same extent the State has jurisdiction over said offenses committed elsewhere within the State.

(B) Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall permit the exercise of jurisdiction by the State of Florida as to any matter to which section 1162(b) of title 18 or section 1360(b) of title 28, United States Code, applies.

(c)(1) Any transfer of lands under this section shall be subject to all existing leases, easements, and rights-of-way, and all the rights, easements, and reservations in favor of the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District (now the South Florida Water Management District) and shall not increase, diminish, modify, or other-

wise affect the extent to which chapter 373, Florida Statutes, and its successor laws, have force and effect within such lands.

Water rights.

(2) Any transfer of lands under this section shall not confer upon the Miccosukee Tribe, or upon the lands within the reservation, any additional water rights.

LIMITATIONS OF ACTIONS

25 USC 1748.

SEC. 9. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any action to contest the constitutionality of this Act shall be barred unless the complaint is filed within one hundred and eighty days after the date of enactment of this Act. An action to contest the constitutionality of this Act may only be brought in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

REVOCATION OF SETTLEMENT

25 USC 1749.

SEC. 10. In the event the Settlement Agreement between the Miccosukee Tribe and the State of Florida is ever invalidated—

(1) the transfers, waivers, releases, relinquishments, and other commitments made by the Miccosukee Tribe in paragraph 3 of the Settlement Agreement shall no longer be of any force or effect,

(2) section 5 of this Act shall be inapplicable to the lands, interests in lands, or natural resources of the Miccosukee Tribe and its members as if never enacted, and

(3) the approvals of prior transfers and the extinguishment of claims and aboriginal title of the Miccosukee Tribe otherwise effected by section 5 shall be void ab initio.

Approved December 31, 1982.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 7155:

HOUSE REPORT No. 97-938 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 128 (1982):
Dec. 6, considered and passed House.
Dec. 16, considered and passed Senate.