Public Law 99-200
99th Congress

An Act

To clear title to certain lands along the California-Nevada boundary.

Dec. 23, 1985
[H.R. 3085]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) thousands of acres of public lands transferred by the United States to the State of California or to the State of Nevada on or before June 1, 1982, are now located within the other State according to the boundary between them established by the United States Supreme Court in the case of California against Nevada (447 U.S. 125 (1980));

(2) each State accepted such transfers as valid, and commencing over 125 years ago, conveyed substantially all of the land into private ownership;

(3) the original title of each State and political subdivisions thereof and subsequent private parties has been treated as good and valid for all governmental and private purposes;

(4) it is imperative that certainty of title to, and ownership of, these lands be established as soon as practicable in order to avoid any undue hardship on the States of California and Nevada and affected private parties; and

(5) litigation is not an appropriate means of resolving the questions of title and ownership of the affected lands in that it would result in unprecedented and unnecessary burdens and expenses on the courts of the United States and the States of California and Nevada, as well as on private property owners.

SEC. 2. TRANSFERS TO CALIFORNIA.

Grants and all other transfers of public land to the State of California by the United States by a statute, clear list, selection, patent, or any other means on or before June 1, 1982— Grants.

(1) which are located in the State of Nevada according to the boundary between the States of California and Nevada, as defined in the case of California against Nevada (447 U.S. 125 (1980)); and

(2) which have been patented or otherwise conveyed to a third party by the State of California,

are not invalid because such land or portions of such land are located in the State of Nevada.

SEC. 3. TRANSFERS TO NEVADA.

Grants and all other transfers of public land to the State of Nevada by the United States by a statute, clear list, selection, patent, or any other means on or before June 1, 1982— Grants.

(1) which are located in the State of California according to the boundary between the States of California and Nevada, as

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defined in the case of California against Nevada (447 U.S. 125 (1980)); and

(2) which have been patented or otherwise conveyed to a third party by the State of Nevada,

are not invalid because such land or portions of such land are located in the State of California.

SEC. 4. CERTAIN LANDS NOT AFFECTED.

Prohibition.

This Act shall not apply to any public land referred to in section 2 or 3 which has not been patented or otherwise conveyed to a third party by the State of California or the State of Nevada, as the case may be.

SEC. 5. LANDS AFFECTED.

Patents and trademarks.

As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall request the States of California and Nevada to submit to the Secretary maps and a list of patents or other conveyances for tracts of land the two States agree are affected by sections 2 and 3 of this Act. Upon concurring that the patents or other conveyances so listed are those intended to be covered by this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall publish the list of patents or other conveyances in the Federal Register. The Secretary is authorized to make clerical and typographical corrections of errors in the list of patents or other conveyances and maps. Such maps, using the Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Master Title Plats showing the affected lands, shall be on file for illustrative purposes and along with the list of patents or other conveyances shall be available for public inspection with the State Directors of the Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, in California and Nevada, and with the State Lands Administrator of Nevada and State Lands Commissioner of California.

Federal Register, publication.

Public availability.

SEC. 6. STATE RIGHTS.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed as conferring on either the State of California or the State of Nevada any rights with regard to entitlements to Federal lands, or as enlarging, diminishing, or otherwise affecting any such rights which may exist under other provisions of law.

Approved December 23, 1985.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 3085 (S. 1503):

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Dec. 9, considered and passed House.
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