

109TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4801

To extend the deadlines for distributing certain funds secured by the Michigan Indian Land Claims Settlement Act and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 16, 2006

Mr. STUPAK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

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## A BILL

To extend the deadlines for distributing certain funds secured by the Michigan Indian Land Claims Settlement Act 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,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Michigan Indian Land  
5       Claims Settlement Act Amendments”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7       (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8               (1) The Michigan Indian Land Claims Settle-  
9       ment Act (Public Law 105–143) (hereafter “the  
10      Act”) provides for the distribution of certain judg-

1        ment funds awarded by the Indian Claims Commis-  
2        sion to certain Ottawa and Chippewa of Michigan in  
3        dockets numbered 18–E, 58, 18–R, and 364.

4            (2) Under the terms and conditions of the Act,  
5        a sizable percentage of those funds have already  
6        been distributed to the Grand Traverse Band of Ot-  
7        tawa and Chippewa Indian, the Bay Mills Indian  
8        Community, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indi-  
9        ans, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa, and  
10       the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa. The re-  
11       maining funds are currently being held in trust  
12       pending distribution to certain individual descend-  
13       ants of treaty signers, and to certain unrecognized  
14       Michigan Ottawa and Chippewa Tribes that obtain  
15       Federal acknowledgment or a Federal reaffirmation  
16       of the government-to-government relationship with  
17       the United States prior to the distribution period es-  
18       tablished in the Act. That distribution period is no  
19       earlier than December 15, 2005, and no later than  
20       December 15, 2006.

21            (3) To qualify for these funds, an unrecognized  
22        Michigan Ottawa or Chippewa Tribe must—

23                    (A) be a signatory to either the 1836 trea-  
24                    ty (7 Stat. 391) or the 1855 treaty (11 Stat.  
25                    621);

1 (B) have a membership which is predomi-  
2 nantly Chippewa and Ottawa;

3 (C) have submitted to the Bureau of In-  
4 dian Affairs a letter of intent to seek Federal  
5 acknowledgment not later than July 15, 1998;

6 (D) have submitted to the Bureau of In-  
7 dian Affairs a documented petition for Federal  
8 acknowledgment not later than December 15,  
9 2000; and

10 (E) have obtained Federal acknowledgment  
11 or reaffirmation by Congress or the Bureau of  
12 Indian Affairs prior to the distribution period  
13 established in the Act.

14 (4) Two Michigan based unrecognized Ottawa  
15 and Chippewa Tribes, the Burt Lake Band of Ot-  
16 tawa and Chippewa Indians and the Grand River  
17 Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, have met  
18 the first 5 requirements, but the Bureau of Indian  
19 Affairs has not completed its review of the tribes'  
20 documented petitions.

21 (5) Because neither of those tribes has caused  
22 this delay, it would be unfair and unjust to deny ei-  
23 ther tribe its tribal shares of the funds merely be-  
24 cause the Bureau of Indian Affairs has been unable  
25 to complete work on the petitions.

1       (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to extend  
2 the distribution dates established in Public Law 105–143  
3 to protect the legal rights of those 2 tribes.

4 **SEC. 3. TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.**

5       Section 106(a)(2) of the Michigan Indian Land  
6 Claims Settlement Act is amended to read as follows:

7           “(1) TIME LIMITATIONS.—The judgment dis-  
8 tribution roll of descendants prepared pursuant to  
9 paragraph (1)(A) shall be approved not later than  
10 December 15, 2007.”.

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