

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 286

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 22, 2015

Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## AN ACT

To amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian tribes, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
3 “Department of the Interior Tribal Self-Governance Act  
4 of 2015”.

5 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of  
6 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—INDIAN SELF-DETERMINATION

Sec. 101. Definitions; reporting and audit requirements; application of provisions.

Sec. 102. Contracts by Secretary of the Interior.

Sec. 103. Administrative provisions.

Sec. 104. Contract funding and indirect costs.

Sec. 105. Contract or grant specifications.

TITLE II—TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE

Sec. 201. Tribal self-governance.

Sec. 202. Effect of certain provisions.

7 **TITLE I—INDIAN SELF-**  
8 **DETERMINATION**

9 **SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS; REPORTING AND AUDIT REQUIRE-**  
10 **MENTS; APPLICATION OF PROVISIONS.**

11 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 4 of the Indian Self-De-  
12 termination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C.  
13 450b) is amended by striking subsection (j) and inserting  
14 the following:

15 “(j) ‘self-determination contract’ means a contract  
16 entered into under title I (or a grant or cooperative agree-  
17 ment used under section 9) between a tribal organization  
18 and the appropriate Secretary for the planning, conduct,  
19 and administration of programs or services that are other-

1 wise provided to Indian tribes and members of Indian  
 2 tribes pursuant to Federal law, subject to the condition  
 3 that, except as provided in section 105(a)(3), no contract  
 4 entered into under title I (or grant or cooperative agree-  
 5 ment used under section 9) shall be—

6           “(1) considered to be a procurement contract;

7           or

8           “(2) except as provided in section 107(a)(1),  
 9           subject to any Federal procurement law (including  
 10          regulations);”.

11          (b) REPORTING AND AUDIT REQUIREMENTS.—Sec-  
 12          tion 5 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education As-  
 13          sistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450c) is amended—

14               (1) in subsection (b)—

15                       (A) by striking “after completion of the  
 16                       project or undertaking referred to in the pre-  
 17                       ceding subsection of this section” and inserting  
 18                       “after the retention period for the report that  
 19                       is submitted to the Secretary under subsection  
 20                       (a)”;

21                       (B) by adding at the end the following:  
 22                       “The retention period shall be defined in regu-  
 23                       lations promulgated by the Secretary pursuant  
 24                       to section 414.”; and

1           (2) in subsection (f)(1), by inserting “if the  
2       tribal organization expends \$500,000 or more in  
3       Federal awards during that fiscal year” after “under  
4       this Act,”.

5       (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
6       subsection (b)(2) shall not take effect until 14 months  
7       after the date of enactment of this Act.

8       (d) APPLICATION OF OTHER PROVISIONS.—Sections  
9       4, 5, 6, 7, 102(c), 104, 105(a)(1), 105(f), 110, and 111  
10      of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assist-  
11      ance Act, as amended (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.) (Public Law  
12      93–638; 88 Stat. 2203) and section 314 of the Depart-  
13      ment of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations  
14      Act, 1991 (Public Law 101–512; 104 Stat. 1959), apply  
15      to compacts and funding agreements entered into under  
16      title IV.

17   **SEC. 102. CONTRACTS BY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.**

18       Section 102 of the Indian Self-Determination and  
19      Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450f) is amended—

20           (1) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “economic  
21       enterprises” and all that follows through “except  
22       that” and inserting “economic enterprises (as de-  
23       fined in section 3 of the Indian Financing Act of  
24       1974 (25 U.S.C. 1452)), except that”; and

25           (2) by adding at the end the following:

1       “(f) GOOD FAITH REQUIREMENT.—In the negotia-  
 2       tion of contracts and funding agreements, the Secretary  
 3       shall—

4               “(1) at all times negotiate in good faith to  
 5       maximize implementation of the self-determination  
 6       policy; and

7               “(2) carry out this Act in a manner that maxi-  
 8       mizes the policy of tribal self-determination, in a  
 9       manner consistent with—

10               “(A) the purposes specified in section 3;  
 11       and

12               “(B) the Department of the Interior Tribal  
 13       Self-Governance Act of 2015.

14       “(g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Subject to section  
 15       202 of the Department of the Interior Tribal Self-Govern-  
 16       ance Act of 2015, each provision of this Act and each pro-  
 17       vision of a contract or funding agreement shall be liberally  
 18       construed for the benefit of the Indian tribe participating  
 19       in self-determination, and any ambiguity shall be resolved  
 20       in favor of the Indian tribe.”.

21       **SEC. 103. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**

22       Section 105 of the Indian Self-Determination and  
 23       Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450j) is amended—

24               (1) in subsection (b), in the first sentence, by  
 25       striking “pursuant to” and all that follows through

1 “of this Act” and inserting “pursuant to sections  
2 102 and 103”; and

3 (2) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(p) INTERPRETATION BY SECRETARY.—Except as  
5 otherwise provided by law (including section 202 of the  
6 Department of the Interior Tribal Self-Governance Act of  
7 2015), the Secretary shall interpret all Federal laws (in-  
8 cluding regulations) and Executive orders in a manner  
9 that facilitates, to the maximum extent practicable—

10 “(1) the inclusion in self-determination con-  
11 tracts and funding agreements of—

12 “(A) applicable programs, services, func-  
13 tions, and activities (or portions thereof); and

14 “(B) funds associated with those pro-  
15 grams, services, functions, and activities;

16 “(2) the implementation of self-determination  
17 contracts and funding agreements; and

18 “(3) the achievement of tribal health objectives.

19 “(q)(1) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR INTERNAL  
20 CONTROLS.—In considering proposals for, amendments  
21 to, or in the course of, a contract under this title and com-  
22 pacts under titles IV and V of this Act, if the Secretary  
23 determines that the Indian tribe lacks adequate internal  
24 controls necessary to manage the contracted program or  
25 programs, the Secretary shall, as soon as practicable, pro-

1 vide the necessary technical assistance to assist the Indian  
 2 tribe in developing adequate internal controls. As part of  
 3 that technical assistance, the Secretary and the tribe shall  
 4 develop a plan for assessing the subsequent effectiveness  
 5 of such technical assistance. The inability of the Secretary  
 6 to provide technical assistance or lack of a plan under this  
 7 subsection shall not result in the reassumption of an exist-  
 8 ing agreement, contract, or compact, or declination or re-  
 9 jection of a new agreement, contract, or compact.

10 “(2) The Secretary shall prepare a report to be in-  
 11 cluded in the information required for the reports under  
 12 sections 405(b)(1) and 514(b)(2)(A). The Secretary shall  
 13 include in this report, in the aggregate, a description of  
 14 the internal controls that were inadequate, the technical  
 15 assistance provided, and a description of Secretarial ac-  
 16 tions taken to address any remaining inadequate internal  
 17 controls after the provision of technical assistance and im-  
 18 plementation of the plan required by paragraph (1).”.

19 **SEC. 104. CONTRACT FUNDING AND INDIRECT COSTS.**

20 Section 106(a)(3) of the Indian Self-Determination  
 21 and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450j-1(a)(3))  
 22 is amended—

23 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

24 (A) in clause (i), by striking “, and” and  
 25 inserting “; and”; and

1 (B) in clause (ii), by striking “expense re-  
 2 lated to the overhead incurred” and inserting  
 3 “expense incurred by the governing body of the  
 4 Indian tribe or tribal organization and any  
 5 overhead expense incurred”;

6 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as sub-  
 7 paragraph (C); and

8 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the fol-  
 9 lowing:

10 “(B) In calculating the reimbursement rate  
 11 for expenses described in subparagraph (A)(ii),  
 12 not less than 50 percent of the expenses de-  
 13 scribed in subparagraph (A)(ii) that are in-  
 14 curred by the governing body of an Indian tribe  
 15 or tribal organization relating to a Federal pro-  
 16 gram, function, service, or activity carried out  
 17 pursuant to the contract shall be considered to  
 18 be reasonable and allowable.”.

19 **SEC. 105. CONTRACT OR GRANT SPECIFICATIONS.**

20 Section 108 of the Indian Self-Determination and  
 21 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450l) is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (a)(2), by inserting “subject  
 23 to subsections (a) and (b) of section 102,” before  
 24 “contain”;



(2) in subsection (f)(2)(A)(ii) of the model agreement contained in subsection (c), by inserting “subject to subsections (a) and (b) of section 102 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450f),” before “such other provisions”; and

(3) in section 1(b)(7)(C) of the model agreement contained in subsection (c), in the second sentence of the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “one performance monitoring visit” and inserting “two performance monitoring visits”.

## **TITLE II—TRIBAL SELF- GOVERNANCE**

### **SEC. 201. TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 401 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 458aa) is amended to read as follows:

#### **“SEC. 401. DEFINITIONS.**

“In this title:

“(1) COMPACT.—The term ‘compact’ means a self-governance compact entered into under section 404.

“(2) CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM; CONSTRUCTION PROJECT.—The term ‘construction program’ or ‘construction project’ means a tribal undertaking relat-

1 ing to the administration, planning, environmental  
2 determination, design, construction, repair, improve-  
3 ment, or expansion of roads, bridges, buildings,  
4 structures, systems, or other facilities for purposes  
5 of housing, law enforcement, detention, sanitation,  
6 water supply, education, administration, community,  
7 health, irrigation, agriculture, conservation, flood  
8 control, transportation, or port facilities, or for other  
9 tribal purposes.

10 “(3) DEPARTMENT.—The term ‘Department’  
11 means the Department of the Interior.

12 “(4) FUNDING AGREEMENT.—The term ‘fund-  
13 ing agreement’ means a funding agreement entered  
14 into under section 403.

15 “(5) GROSS MISMANAGEMENT.—The term  
16 ‘gross mismanagement’ means a significant viola-  
17 tion, shown by a preponderance of the evidence, of  
18 a compact, funding agreement, or statutory or regu-  
19 latory requirement applicable to Federal funds—

20 “(A) for a program administered by an In-  
21 dian tribe; or

22 “(B) under a compact or funding agree-  
23 ment that results in a significant reduction of  
24 funds available for the programs assumed by an  
25 Indian tribe.

1           “(6) INHERENT FEDERAL FUNCTION.—The  
2           term ‘inherent Federal function’ means a Federal  
3           function that may not legally be delegated to an In-  
4           dian tribe.

5           “(7) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’ means  
6           any program, function, service, or activity (or por-  
7           tion thereof) within the Department that is included  
8           in a funding agreement.

9           “(8) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means  
10          the Secretary of the Interior.

11          “(9) SELF-GOVERNANCE.—The term ‘self-gov-  
12          ernance’ means the Tribal Self-Governance Program  
13          established under section 402.

14          “(10) TRIBAL SHARE.—The term ‘tribal share’  
15          means the portion of all funds and resources of an  
16          Indian tribe that—

17                 “(A) support any program within the Bu-  
18                 reau of Indian Affairs, the Office of the Special  
19                 Trustee, or the Office of the Assistant Sec-  
20                 retary for Indian Affairs; and

21                 “(B) are not required by the Secretary for  
22                 the performance of an inherent Federal func-  
23                 tion.”.

1 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 402 of the Indian  
 2 Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25  
 3 U.S.C. 458bb) is amended to read as follows:

4 **“SEC. 402. TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE PROGRAM.**

5 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-  
 6 lish and carry out a program within the Department to  
 7 be known as the ‘Tribal Self-Governance Program’.

8 “(b) SELECTION OF PARTICIPATING INDIAN  
 9 TRIBES.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—

11 “(A) ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary, acting  
 12 through the Director of the Office of Self-Gov-  
 13 ernance, may select up to 50 new Indian tribes  
 14 per year from those eligible under subsection  
 15 (c) to participate in self-governance.

16 “(B) JOINT PARTICIPATION.—On the re-  
 17 quest of each participating Indian tribe, two or  
 18 more otherwise eligible Indian tribes may be  
 19 treated as a single Indian tribe for the purpose  
 20 of participating in self-governance.

21 “(2) OTHER AUTHORIZED INDIAN TRIBE OR  
 22 TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—If an Indian tribe author-  
 23 izes another Indian tribe or a tribal organization to  
 24 plan for or carry out a program on its behalf under  
 25 this title, the authorized Indian tribe or tribal orga-

1 nization shall have the rights and responsibilities of  
 2 the authorizing Indian tribe (except as otherwise  
 3 provided in the authorizing resolution).

4 “(3) JOINT PARTICIPATION.—Two or more In-  
 5 dian tribes that are not otherwise eligible under sub-  
 6 section (c) may be treated as a single Indian tribe  
 7 for the purpose of participating in self-governance as  
 8 a tribal organization if—

9 “(A) each Indian tribe so requests; and

10 “(B) the tribal organization itself, or at  
 11 least one of the Indian tribes participating in  
 12 the tribal organization, is eligible under sub-  
 13 section (c).

14 “(4) TRIBAL WITHDRAWAL FROM A TRIBAL OR-  
 15 GANIZATION.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An Indian tribe that  
 17 withdraws from participation in a tribal organi-  
 18 zation, in whole or in part, shall be entitled to  
 19 participate in self-governance if the Indian tribe  
 20 is eligible under subsection (c).

21 “(B) EFFECT OF WITHDRAWAL.—If an In-  
 22 dian tribe withdraws from participation in a  
 23 tribal organization, the Indian tribe shall be en-  
 24 titled to its tribal share of funds and resources  
 25 supporting the programs that the Indian tribe

1 is entitled to carry out under the compact and  
2 funding agreement of the Indian tribe.

3 “(C) PARTICIPATION IN SELF-GOVERN-  
4 ANCE.—The withdrawal of an Indian tribe from  
5 a tribal organization shall not affect the eligi-  
6 bility of the tribal organization to participate in  
7 self-governance on behalf of one or more other  
8 Indian tribes, if the tribal organization still  
9 qualifies under subsection (c).

10 “(D) WITHDRAWAL PROCESS.—

11 “(i) IN GENERAL.—An Indian tribe  
12 may, by tribal resolution, fully or partially  
13 withdraw its tribal share of any program  
14 in a funding agreement from a partici-  
15 pating tribal organization.

16 “(ii) NOTIFICATION.—The Indian  
17 tribe shall provide a copy of the tribal reso-  
18 lution described in clause (i) to the Sec-  
19 retary.

20 “(iii) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

21 “(I) IN GENERAL.—A withdrawal  
22 under clause (i) shall become effective  
23 on the date that is specified in the  
24 tribal resolution and mutually agreed  
25 upon by the Secretary, the with-

1 drawing Indian tribe, and the tribal  
2 organization that signed the compact  
3 and funding agreement on behalf of  
4 the withdrawing Indian tribe or tribal  
5 organization.

6 “(II) NO SPECIFIED DATE.—In  
7 the absence of a date specified in the  
8 resolution, the withdrawal shall be-  
9 come effective on—

10 “(aa) the earlier of—

11 “(AA) 1 year after the  
12 date of submission of the re-  
13 quest; and

14 “(BB) the date on  
15 which the funding agree-  
16 ment expires; or

17 “(bb) such date as may be  
18 mutually agreed upon by the Sec-  
19 retary, the withdrawing Indian  
20 tribe, and the tribal organization  
21 that signed the compact and  
22 funding agreement on behalf of  
23 the withdrawing Indian tribe or  
24 tribal organization.

“(E) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—If an Indian tribe or tribal organization eligible to enter into a self-determination contract under title I or a compact or funding agreement under this title fully or partially withdraws from a participating tribal organization, the withdrawing Indian tribe—

“(i) may elect to enter into a self-determination contract or compact, in which case—

“(I) the withdrawing Indian tribe or tribal organization shall be entitled to its tribal share of unexpended funds and resources supporting the programs that the Indian tribe will be carrying out under its own self-determination contract or compact and funding agreement (calculated on the same basis as the funds were initially allocated to the funding agreement of the tribal organization); and

“(II) the funds referred to in subclause (I) shall be withdrawn by the Secretary from the funding agreement of the tribal organization and



1 transferred to the withdrawing Indian  
 2 tribe, on the condition that sections  
 3 102 and 105(i), as appropriate, shall  
 4 apply to the withdrawing Indian tribe;  
 5 or

6 “(ii) may elect not to enter into a self-  
 7 determination contract or compact, in  
 8 which case all unexpended funds and re-  
 9 sources associated with the withdrawing  
 10 Indian tribe’s returned programs (cal-  
 11 culated on the same basis as the funds  
 12 were initially allocated to the funding  
 13 agreement of the tribal organization) shall  
 14 be returned by the tribal organization to  
 15 the Secretary for operation of the pro-  
 16 grams included in the withdrawal.

17 “(F) RETURN TO MATURE CONTRACT STA-  
 18 TUS.—If an Indian tribe elects to operate all or  
 19 some programs carried out under a compact or  
 20 funding agreement under this title through a  
 21 self-determination contract under title I, at the  
 22 option of the Indian tribe, the resulting self-de-  
 23 termination contract shall be a mature self-de-  
 24 termination contract as long as the Indian tribe

1           meets the requirements set forth in section  
2           4(h).

3           “(c) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to participate in  
4 self-governance, an Indian tribe shall—

5           “(1) successfully complete the planning phase  
6 described in subsection (d);

7           “(2) request participation in self-governance by  
8 resolution or other official action by the tribal gov-  
9 erning body; and

10           “(3) demonstrate, for the 3 fiscal years pre-  
11 ceding the date on which the Indian tribe requests  
12 participation, financial stability and financial man-  
13 agement capability as evidenced by the Indian tribe  
14 having no uncorrected significant and material audit  
15 exceptions in the required annual audit of its self-  
16 determination or self-governance agreements with  
17 any Federal agency.

18           “(d) PLANNING PHASE.—

19           “(1) IN GENERAL.—An Indian tribe seeking to  
20 begin participation in self-governance shall complete  
21 a planning phase as provided in this subsection.

22           “(2) ACTIVITIES.—The planning phase shall—

23           “(A) be conducted to the satisfaction of  
24 the Indian tribe; and

25           “(B) include—

1 “(i) legal and budgetary research; and

2 “(ii) internal tribal government plan-

3 ning, training, and organizational prepara-

4 tion.

5 “(e) GRANTS.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability

7 of appropriations, an Indian tribe or tribal organiza-

8 tion that meets the requirements of paragraphs (2)

9 and (3) of subsection (c) shall be eligible for

10 grants—

11 “(A) to plan for participation in self-gov-

12 ernance; and

13 “(B) to negotiate the terms of participa-

14 tion by the Indian tribe or tribal organization

15 in self-governance, as set forth in a compact

16 and a funding agreement.

17 “(2) RECEIPT OF GRANT NOT REQUIRED.—Re-

18 ceipt of a grant under paragraph (1) shall not be a

19 requirement of participation in self-governance.”.

20 (c) FUNDING AGREEMENTS.—Section 403 of the In-

21 dian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act

22 (25 U.S.C. 458cc) is amended—

23 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the

24 following:

1       “(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary shall, on the  
 2 request of any Indian tribe or tribal organization, enter  
 3 into a written funding agreement with the governing body  
 4 of the Indian tribe or the tribal organization in a manner  
 5 consistent with—

6               “(1) the trust responsibility of the Federal Gov-  
 7 ernment, treaty obligations, and the government-to-  
 8 government relationship between Indian tribes and  
 9 the United States; and

10              “(2) subsection (b).”;

11              (2) in subsection (b)—

12                      (A) in paragraph (1)—

13                              (i) in the matter preceding subpara-  
 14 graph (A), by striking “without regard to  
 15 the agency or office of the Bureau of In-  
 16 dian Affairs” and inserting “the Office of  
 17 the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs,  
 18 and the Office of the Special Trustee,  
 19 without regard to the agency or office of  
 20 that Bureau or those Offices”;

21                              (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
 22 “and”;

23                              (iii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting  
 24 “and” after the semicolon at the end; and

1 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-  
 2 lowing:

3 “(D) any other programs, services, func-  
 4 tions, or activities (or portions thereof) that are  
 5 provided through the Bureau of Indian Affairs,  
 6 the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian  
 7 Affairs, or the Office of the Special Trustee  
 8 with respect to which Indian tribes or Indians  
 9 are primary or significant beneficiaries;”;

10 (B) in paragraph (2)—

11 (i) by striking “section 405(c)” and  
 12 inserting “section 413(c)”; and

13 (ii) by inserting “and” after the semi-  
 14 colon at the end;

15 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking the semi-  
 16 colon at the end and inserting a period; and

17 (D) by striking paragraphs (4) through  
 18 (9); and

19 (3) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(m) OTHER PROVISIONS.—

21 “(1) EXCLUDED FUNDING.—A funding agree-  
 22 ment shall not authorize an Indian tribe to plan,  
 23 conduct, administer, or receive tribal share funding  
 24 under any program that—

1 “(A) is provided under the Tribally Con-  
 2 trolled Colleges and Universities Assistance Act  
 3 of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.); or

4 “(B) is provided for elementary and sec-  
 5 ondary schools under the formula developed  
 6 under section 1127 of the Education Amend-  
 7 ments of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 2007).

8 “(2) SERVICES, FUNCTIONS, AND RESPONSIBIL-  
 9 ITIES.—A funding agreement shall specify—

10 “(A) the services to be provided under the  
 11 funding agreement;

12 “(B) the functions to be performed under  
 13 the funding agreement; and

14 “(C) the responsibilities of the Indian tribe  
 15 and the Secretary under the funding agreement.

16 “(3) BASE BUDGET.—A funding agreement  
 17 shall, at the option of the Indian tribe, provide for  
 18 a stable base budget specifying the recurring funds  
 19 (which may include funds available under section  
 20 106(a)) to be transferred to the Indian tribe, for  
 21 such period as the Indian tribe specifies in the fund-  
 22 ing agreement, subject to annual adjustment only to  
 23 reflect changes in congressional appropriations.

24 “(4) NO WAIVER OF TRUST RESPONSIBILITY.—  
 25 A funding agreement shall prohibit the Secretary

1 from waiving, modifying, or diminishing in any way  
2 the trust responsibility of the United States with re-  
3 spect to Indian tribes and individual Indians that ex-  
4 ists under treaties, Executive orders, court decisions,  
5 and other laws.

6 “(n) AMENDMENT.—The Secretary shall not revise,  
7 amend, or require additional terms in a new or subsequent  
8 funding agreement without the consent of the Indian tribe,  
9 unless such terms are required by Federal law.

10 “(o) EFFECTIVE DATE.—A funding agreement shall  
11 become effective on the date specified in the funding  
12 agreement.

13 “(p) EXISTING AND SUBSEQUENT FUNDING AGREE-  
14 MENTS.—

15 “(1) SUBSEQUENT FUNDING AGREEMENTS.—  
16 Absent notification from an Indian tribe that the In-  
17 dian tribe is withdrawing or retroceding the oper-  
18 ation of one or more programs identified in a fund-  
19 ing agreement, or unless otherwise agreed to by the  
20 parties to the funding agreement or by the nature  
21 of any noncontinuing program, service, function, or  
22 activity contained in a funding agreement—

23 “(A) a funding agreement shall remain in  
24 full force and effect until a subsequent funding  
25 agreement is executed, with funding paid annu-

1           ally for each fiscal year the agreement is in ef-  
2           fect; and

3           “(B) the term of the subsequent funding  
4           agreement shall be retroactive to the end of the  
5           term of the preceding funding agreement for  
6           the purposes of calculating the amount of fund-  
7           ing to which the Indian tribe is entitled.

8           “(2) DISPUTES.—Disputes over the implemen-  
9           tation of paragraph (1)(A) shall be subject to section  
10          406(c).

11          “(3) EXISTING FUNDING AGREEMENTS.—An  
12          Indian tribe that was participating in self-govern-  
13          ance under this title on the date of enactment of the  
14          Department of the Interior Tribal Self-Governance  
15          Act of 2015 shall have the option at any time after  
16          that date—

17               “(A) to retain its existing funding agree-  
18               ment (in whole or in part) to the extent that  
19               the provisions of that funding agreement are  
20               not directly contrary to any express provision of  
21               this title; or

22               “(B) to negotiate a new funding agreement  
23               in a manner consistent with this title.

24          “(4) MULTIYEAR FUNDING AGREEMENTS.—An  
25          Indian tribe may, at the discretion of the Indian



1       tribe, negotiate with the Secretary for a funding  
2       agreement with a term that exceeds 1 year.”.

3       (d) GENERAL REVISIONS.—Title IV of the Indian  
4 Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25  
5 U.S.C. 458aa et seq.) is amended by striking sections 404  
6 through 408 and inserting the following:

7       **“SEC. 404. COMPACTS.**

8       “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall negotiate  
9 and enter into a written compact with each Indian tribe  
10 participating in self-governance in a manner consistent  
11 with the trust responsibility of the Federal Government,  
12 treaty obligations, and the government-to-government re-  
13 lationship between Indian tribes and the United States.

14       “(b) CONTENTS.—A compact under subsection (a)  
15 shall—

16               “(1) specify and affirm the general terms of the  
17 government-to-government relationship between the  
18 Indian tribe and the Secretary; and

19               “(2) include such terms as the parties intend  
20 shall control during the term of the compact.

21       “(c) AMENDMENT.—A compact under subsection (a)  
22 may be amended only by agreement of the parties.

23       “(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The effective date of a com-  
24 pact under subsection (a) shall be—

1           “(1) the date of the execution of the compact  
2           by the parties; or

3           “(2) such date as is mutually agreed upon by  
4           the parties.

5           “(e) DURATION.—A compact under subsection (a)  
6           shall remain in effect—

7           “(1) for so long as permitted by Federal law;  
8           or

9           “(2) until termination by written agreement,  
10          retrocession, or reassumption.

11          “(f) EXISTING COMPACTS.—An Indian tribe partici-  
12          pating in self-governance under this title, as in effect on  
13          the date of enactment of the Department of the Interior  
14          Tribal Self-Governance Act of 2015, shall have the option  
15          at any time after that date—

16          “(1) to retain its negotiated compact (in whole  
17          or in part) to the extent that the provisions of the  
18          compact are not directly contrary to any express  
19          provision of this title; or

20          “(2) to negotiate a new compact in a manner  
21          consistent with this title.

22          **“SEC. 405. GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

23          “(a) APPLICABILITY.—An Indian tribe and the Sec-  
24          retary shall include in any compact or funding agreement  
25          provisions that reflect the requirements of this title.

1       “(b) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—An Indian tribe  
 2 participating in self-governance shall ensure that internal  
 3 measures are in place to address, pursuant to tribal law  
 4 and procedures, conflicts of interest in the administration  
 5 of programs.

6       “(c) AUDITS.—

7               “(1) SINGLE AGENCY AUDIT ACT.—Chapter 75  
 8 of title 31, United States Code, shall apply to a  
 9 funding agreement under this title.

10              “(2) COST PRINCIPLES.—An Indian tribe shall  
 11 apply cost principles under the applicable Office of  
 12 Management and Budget circular, except as modi-  
 13 fied by—

14                      “(A) any provision of law, including section  
 15 106; or

16                      “(B) any exemptions to applicable Office  
 17 of Management and Budget circulars subse-  
 18 quently granted by the Office of Management  
 19 and Budget.

20              “(3) FEDERAL CLAIMS.—Any claim by the Fed-  
 21 eral Government against an Indian tribe relating to  
 22 funds received under a funding agreement based on  
 23 any audit under this subsection shall be subject to  
 24 section 106(f).

1       “(d) REDESIGN AND CONSOLIDATION.—Except as  
 2 provided in section 407, an Indian tribe may redesign or  
 3 consolidate programs or reallocate funds for programs in  
 4 any manner that the Indian tribe determines to be in the  
 5 best interest of the Indian community being served, so  
 6 long as that the redesign or consolidation does not have  
 7 the effect of denying eligibility for services to population  
 8 groups otherwise eligible to be served under applicable  
 9 Federal law, except that, with respect to the reallocation,  
 10 consolidation, and redesign of programs described in sub-  
 11 section (b)(2) or (c) of section 403, a joint agreement be-  
 12 tween the Secretary and the Indian tribe shall be required.

13       “(e) RETROCESSION.—

14               “(1) IN GENERAL.—An Indian tribe may fully  
 15 or partially retrocede to the Secretary any program  
 16 under a compact or funding agreement.

17               “(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

18                       “(A) AGREEMENT.—Unless an Indian  
 19 tribe rescinds a request for retrocession under  
 20 paragraph (1), the retrocession shall become ef-  
 21 fective on the date specified by the parties in  
 22 the compact or funding agreement.

23                       “(B) NO AGREEMENT.—In the absence of  
 24 a specification of an effective date in the com-

1 pact or funding agreement, the retrocession  
2 shall become effective on—

3 “(i) the earlier of—

4 “(I) 1 year after the date on  
5 which the request is submitted; and

6 “(II) the date on which the fund-  
7 ing agreement expires; or

8 “(ii) such date as may be mutually  
9 agreed upon by the Secretary and the In-  
10 dian tribe.

11 “(f) NONDUPLICATION.—A funding agreement shall  
12 provide that, for the period for which, and to the extent  
13 to which, funding is provided to an Indian tribe under this  
14 title, the Indian tribe—

15 “(1) shall not be entitled to contract with the  
16 Secretary for funds under section 102, except that  
17 the Indian tribe shall be eligible for new programs  
18 on the same basis as other Indian tribes; and

19 “(2) shall be responsible for the administration  
20 of programs in accordance with the compact or  
21 funding agreement.

22 “(g) RECORDS.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Unless an Indian tribe  
24 specifies otherwise in the compact or funding agree-  
25 ment, records of an Indian tribe shall not be consid-

1       ered to be Federal records for purposes of chapter  
2       5 of title 5, United States Code.

3           “(2) RECORDKEEPING SYSTEM.—An Indian  
4       tribe shall—

5           “(A) maintain a recordkeeping system; and

6           “(B) on a notice period of not less than 30  
7       days, provide the Secretary with reasonable ac-  
8       cess to the records to enable the Department to  
9       meet the requirements of sections 3101 through  
10       3106 of title 44, United States Code.

11   **“SEC. 406. PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE SECRETARY.**

12       “(a) TRUST EVALUATIONS.—A funding agreement  
13       shall include a provision to monitor the performance of  
14       trust functions by the Indian tribe through the annual  
15       trust evaluation.

16       “(b) REASSUMPTION.—

17           “(1) IN GENERAL.—A compact or funding  
18       agreement shall include provisions for the Secretary  
19       to reassume a program and associated funding if  
20       there is a specific finding relating to that program  
21       of—

22           “(A) imminent jeopardy to a trust asset, a  
23       natural resource, or public health and safety  
24       that—

1 “(i) is caused by an act or omission of  
2 the Indian tribe; and

3 “(ii) arises out of a failure to carry  
4 out the compact or funding agreement; or

5 “(B) gross mismanagement with respect to  
6 funds transferred to an Indian tribe under a  
7 compact or funding agreement, as determined  
8 by the Secretary in consultation with the In-  
9 spector General, as appropriate.

10 “(2) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary shall not  
11 reassume operation of a program, in whole or part,  
12 unless—

13 “(A) the Secretary first provides written  
14 notice and a hearing on the record to the In-  
15 dian tribe; and

16 “(B) the Indian tribe does not take correc-  
17 tive action to remedy the mismanagement of  
18 the funds or programs, or the imminent jeop-  
19 ardy to a trust asset, natural resource, or pub-  
20 lic health and safety.

21 “(3) EXCEPTION.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding para-  
23 graph (2), the Secretary may, on written notice  
24 to the Indian tribe, immediately reassume oper-  
25 ation of a program if—

1 “(i) the Secretary makes a finding of  
 2 imminent and substantial jeopardy and ir-  
 3 reparable harm to a trust asset, a natural  
 4 resource, or the public health and safety  
 5 caused by an act or omission of the Indian  
 6 tribe; and

7 “(ii) the imminent and substantial  
 8 jeopardy, and irreparable harm to the trust  
 9 asset, natural resource, or public health  
 10 and safety arises out of a failure by the In-  
 11 dian tribe to carry out the terms of an ap-  
 12 plicable compact or funding agreement.

13 “(B) REASSUMPTION.—If the Secretary re-  
 14 assumes operation of a program under subpara-  
 15 graph (A), the Secretary shall provide the In-  
 16 dian tribe with a hearing on the record not  
 17 later than 10 days after the date of reassump-  
 18 tion.

19 “(c) INABILITY TO AGREE ON COMPACT OR FUND-  
 20 ING AGREEMENT.—

21 “(1) FINAL OFFER.—If the Secretary and a  
 22 participating Indian tribe are unable to agree, in  
 23 whole or in part, on the terms of a compact or fund-  
 24 ing agreement (including funding levels), the Indian  
 25 tribe may submit a final offer to the Secretary.



1           “(2) DETERMINATION.—Not more than 60  
 2       days after the date of receipt of a final offer by the  
 3       one or more officials designated pursuant to para-  
 4       graph (4), the Secretary shall review and make a de-  
 5       termination with respect to the final offer.

6           “(3) EXTENSIONS.—The deadline described in  
 7       paragraph (2) may be extended for any length of  
 8       time, as agreed upon by both the Indian tribe and  
 9       the Secretary.

10          “(4) DESIGNATED OFFICIALS.—

11               “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
 12       designate one or more appropriate officials in  
 13       the Department to receive a copy of the final  
 14       offer described in paragraph (1).

15               “(B) NO DESIGNATION.—If no official is  
 16       designated, the Executive Secretariat of the  
 17       Secretary shall be the designated official.

18          “(5) NO TIMELY DETERMINATION.—Except as  
 19       otherwise provided in section 202 of the Department  
 20       of the Interior Tribal Self-Governance Act of 2015,  
 21       if the Secretary fails to make a determination with  
 22       respect to a final offer within the period specified in  
 23       paragraph (2), the Secretary shall be deemed to  
 24       have agreed to the offer.

25          “(6) REJECTION OF FINAL OFFER.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary re-  
2           jects a final offer (or one or more provisions or  
3           funding levels in a final offer), the Secretary  
4           shall—

5                   “(i) provide timely written notification  
6                   to the Indian tribe that contains a specific  
7                   finding that clearly demonstrates, or that  
8                   is supported by a controlling legal author-  
9                   ity, that—

10                           “(I) the amount of funds pro-  
11                           posed in the final offer exceeds the  
12                           applicable funding level as determined  
13                           under section 106(a)(1);

14                           “(II) the program that is the  
15                           subject of the final offer is an inher-  
16                           ent Federal function or is subject to  
17                           the discretion of the Secretary under  
18                           section 403(c);

19                           “(III) the Indian tribe cannot  
20                           carry out the program in a manner  
21                           that would not result in significant  
22                           danger or risk to the public health or  
23                           safety, to natural resources, or to  
24                           trust resources;

1 “(IV) the Indian tribe is not eli-  
2 gible to participate in self-governance  
3 under section 402(c);

4 “(V) the funding agreement  
5 would violate a Federal statute or reg-  
6 ulation; or

7 “(VI) with respect to a program  
8 or portion of a program included in a  
9 final offer pursuant to section  
10 403(b)(2), the program or the portion  
11 of the program is not otherwise avail-  
12 able to Indian tribes or Indians under  
13 section 102(a)(1)(E);

14 “(ii) provide technical assistance to  
15 overcome the objections stated in the noti-  
16 fication required by clause (i);

17 “(iii) provide the Indian tribe with—

18 “(I) a hearing on the record with  
19 the right to engage in full discovery  
20 relevant to any issue raised in the  
21 matter; and

22 “(II) the opportunity for appeal  
23 on the objections raised (except that  
24 the Indian tribe may, in lieu of filing  
25 such appeal, directly proceed to ini-

1                   tiate an action in a United States dis-  
2                   trict court under section 110(a)); and

3                   “(iv) provide the Indian tribe the op-  
4                   tion of entering into the severable portions  
5                   of a final proposed compact or funding  
6                   agreement (including a lesser funding  
7                   amount, if any), that the Secretary did not  
8                   reject, subject to any additional alterations  
9                   necessary to conform the compact or fund-  
10                  ing agreement to the severed provisions.

11                  “(B) EFFECT OF EXERCISING CERTAIN  
12                  OPTION.—If an Indian tribe exercises the op-  
13                  tion specified in subparagraph (A)(iv)—

14                   “(i) the Indian tribe shall retain the  
15                   right to appeal the rejection by the Sec-  
16                   retary under this section; and

17                   “(ii) clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of sub-  
18                   paragraph (A) shall apply only to the por-  
19                   tion of the proposed final compact or fund-  
20                   ing agreement that was rejected by the  
21                   Secretary.

22                  “(d) BURDEN OF PROOF.—In any administrative ac-  
23                  tion, hearing, or appeal or civil action brought under this  
24                  section, the Secretary shall have the burden of proof—

1 “(1) of demonstrating, by a preponderance of  
2 the evidence, the validity of the grounds for a re-  
3 assumption under subsection (b); and

4 “(2) of clearly demonstrating the validity of the  
5 grounds for rejecting a final offer made under sub-  
6 section (c).

7 “(e) GOOD FAITH.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the negotiation of com-  
9 pacts and funding agreements, the Secretary shall at  
10 all times negotiate in good faith to maximize imple-  
11 mentation of the self-governance policy.

12 “(2) POLICY.—The Secretary shall carry out  
13 this title in a manner that maximizes the policy of  
14 tribal self-governance.

15 “(f) SAVINGS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent that pro-  
17 grams carried out for the benefit of Indian tribes  
18 and tribal organizations under this title reduce the  
19 administrative or other responsibilities of the Sec-  
20 retary with respect to the operation of Indian pro-  
21 grams and result in savings that have not otherwise  
22 been included in the amount of tribal shares and  
23 other funds determined under section 408(c), except  
24 for funding agreements entered into for programs  
25 under section 403(c), the Secretary shall make such

1 savings available to the Indian tribes or tribal orga-  
2 nizations for the provision of additional services to  
3 program beneficiaries in a manner equitable to di-  
4 rectly served, contracted, and compacted programs.

5 “(2) DISCRETIONARY PROGRAMS OF SPECIAL  
6 SIGNIFICANCE.—For any savings generated as a re-  
7 sult of the assumption of a program by an Indian  
8 tribe under section 403(c), such savings shall be  
9 made available to that Indian tribe.

10 “(g) TRUST RESPONSIBILITY.—The Secretary may  
11 not waive, modify, or diminish in any way the trust re-  
12 sponsibility of the United States with respect to Indian  
13 tribes and individual Indians that exists under treaties,  
14 Executive orders, other laws, or court decisions.

15 “(h) DECISIONMAKER.—A decision that constitutes  
16 final agency action and relates to an appeal within the  
17 Department conducted under subsection (c)(4) may be  
18 made by—

19 “(1) an official of the Department who holds a  
20 position at a higher organizational level within the  
21 Department than the level of the departmental agen-  
22 cy in which the decision that is the subject of the  
23 appeal was made; or

24 “(2) an administrative law judge.

1       “(i) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Subject to section  
2 202 of the Department of the Interior Tribal Self-Govern-  
3 ance Act of 2015, each provision of this title and each  
4 provision of a compact or funding agreement shall be lib-  
5 erally construed for the benefit of the Indian tribe partici-  
6 pating in self-governance, and any ambiguity shall be re-  
7 solved in favor of the Indian tribe.

8       **“SEC. 407. CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS.**

9       “(a) IN GENERAL.—Indian tribes participating in  
10 tribal self-governance may carry out construction projects  
11 under this title.

12       “(b) TRIBAL OPTION TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FED-  
13 ERAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out a  
14 construction project under this title, an Indian tribe may,  
15 subject to the agreement of the Secretary, elect to assume  
16 some Federal responsibilities under the National Environ-  
17 mental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the  
18 National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et  
19 seq.), and related provisions of law and regulations that  
20 would apply if the Secretary were to undertake a construc-  
21 tion project, by adopting a resolution—

22               “(1) designating a certifying tribal officer to  
23 represent the Indian tribe and to assume the status  
24 of a responsible Federal official under those Acts or  
25 regulations; and

1           “(2) accepting the jurisdiction of the United  
2       States courts for the purpose of enforcing the re-  
3       sponsibilities of the certifying tribal officer assuming  
4       the status of a responsible Federal official under  
5       those Acts or regulations.

6           “(c) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Notwithstanding subsection  
7       (b), nothing in this section authorizes the Secretary to in-  
8       clude in any compact or funding agreement duties of the  
9       Secretary under the National Environmental Policy Act  
10      (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the National Historic Preserva-  
11      tion Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.), and other related provi-  
12      sions of law that are inherent Federal functions.

13          “(d) CODES AND STANDARDS.—In carrying out a  
14      construction project under this title, an Indian tribe  
15      shall—

16           “(1) adhere to applicable Federal, State, local,  
17      and tribal building codes, architectural and engineer-  
18      ing standards, and applicable Federal guidelines re-  
19      garding design, space, and operational standards,  
20      appropriate for the particular project; and

21           “(2) use only architects and engineers who—

22           “(A) are licensed to practice in the State  
23      in which the facility will be built; and

24           “(B) certify that—



1 “(i) they are qualified to perform the  
 2 work required by the specific construction  
 3 involved; and

4 “(ii) upon completion of design, the  
 5 plans and specifications meet or exceed the  
 6 applicable construction and safety codes.

7 “(e) TRIBAL ACCOUNTABILITY.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out a construc-  
 9 tion project under this title, an Indian tribe shall as-  
 10 sume responsibility for the successful completion of  
 11 the construction project and of a facility that is usa-  
 12 ble for the purpose for which the Indian tribe re-  
 13 ceived funding.

14 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—For each construction  
 15 project carried out by an Indian tribe under this  
 16 title, the Indian tribe and the Secretary shall nego-  
 17 tiate a provision to be included in the funding agree-  
 18 ment that identifies—

19 “(A) the approximate start and completion  
 20 dates for the project, which may extend over a  
 21 period of one or more years;

22 “(B) a general description of the project,  
 23 including the scope of work, references to de-  
 24 sign criteria, and other terms and conditions;

1           “(C) the responsibilities of the Indian tribe  
2           and the Secretary for the project;

3           “(D) how project-related environmental  
4           considerations will be addressed;

5           “(E) the amount of funds provided for the  
6           project;

7           “(F) the obligations of the Indian tribe to  
8           comply with the codes referenced in subsection  
9           (d)(1) and applicable Federal laws and regula-  
10          tions;

11          “(G) the agreement of the parties over who  
12          will bear any additional costs necessary to meet  
13          changes in scope, or errors or omissions in de-  
14          sign and construction; and

15          “(H) the agreement of the Secretary to  
16          issue a certificate of occupancy, if requested by  
17          the Indian tribe, based upon the review and  
18          verification by the Secretary, to the satisfaction  
19          of the Secretary, that the Indian tribe has se-  
20          cured upon completion the review and approval  
21          of the plans and specifications, sufficiency of  
22          design, life safety, and code compliance by  
23          qualified, licensed, and independent architects  
24          and engineers.

25          “(f) FUNDING.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Funding appropriated for  
2           construction projects carried out under this title  
3           shall be included in funding agreements as annual or  
4           semiannual advance payments at the option of the  
5           Indian tribe.

6           “(2) ADVANCE PAYMENTS.—The Secretary  
7           shall include all associated project contingency funds  
8           with each advance payment, and the Indian tribe  
9           shall be responsible for the management of such con-  
10          tingency funds.

11          “(g) NEGOTIATIONS.—At the option of the Indian  
12          tribe, construction project funding proposals shall be nego-  
13          tiated pursuant to the statutory process in section 105,  
14          and any resulting construction project agreement shall be  
15          incorporated into the funding agreement as addenda.

16          “(h) FEDERAL REVIEW AND VERIFICATION.—

17                 “(1) IN GENERAL.—On a schedule negotiated  
18                 by the Secretary and the Indian tribe—

19                         “(A) the Secretary shall review and verify,  
20                         to the satisfaction of the Secretary, that project  
21                         planning and design documents prepared by the  
22                         Indian tribe in advance of initial construction  
23                         are in conformity with the obligations of the In-  
24                         dian tribe under subsection (d); and

1           “(B) before the project planning and de-  
2           sign documents are implemented, the Secretary  
3           shall review and verify to the satisfaction of the  
4           Secretary that subsequent document amend-  
5           ments which result in a significant change in  
6           construction are in conformity with the obliga-  
7           tions of the Indian tribe under subsection (d).

8           “(2) REPORTS.—The Indian tribe shall provide  
9           the Secretary with project progress and financial re-  
10          ports not less than semiannually.

11          “(3) OVERSIGHT VISITS.—The Secretary may  
12          conduct onsite project oversight visits semiannually  
13          or on an alternate schedule agreed to by the Sec-  
14          retary and the Indian tribe.

15          “(i) APPLICATION OF OTHER LAWS.—Unless other-  
16          wise agreed to by the Indian tribe and except as otherwise  
17          provided in this Act, no provision of the Office of Federal  
18          Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 401 et seq.), the Fed-  
19          eral Acquisition Regulations issued pursuant to that Act,  
20          or any other law or regulation pertaining to Federal pro-  
21          curement (including Executive orders) shall apply to any  
22          construction program or project carried out under this  
23          title.

24          “(j) FUTURE FUNDING.—Upon completion of a facil-  
25          ity constructed under this title, the Secretary shall include

1 the facility among those eligible for annual operation and  
2 maintenance funding support comparable to that provided  
3 for similar facilities funded by the Department as annual  
4 appropriations are available and to the extent that the fa-  
5 cility size and complexity and other factors do not exceed  
6 the funding formula criteria for comparable buildings.

7 “(k) APPLICABILITY.—Notwithstanding any other  
8 provision of this section, section 202 of the Department  
9 of the Interior Tribal Self-Governance Act of 2015 applies  
10 to subsections (a) through (j).

11 **“SEC. 408. PAYMENT.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—At the request of the governing  
13 body of an Indian tribe and under the terms of an applica-  
14 ble funding agreement, the Secretary shall provide funding  
15 to the Indian tribe to carry out the funding agreement.

16 “(b) ADVANCE ANNUAL PAYMENT.—At the option of  
17 the Indian tribe, a funding agreement shall provide for  
18 an advance annual payment to an Indian tribe.

19 “(c) AMOUNT.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (e)  
21 and sections 403 and 405, the Secretary shall pro-  
22 vide funds to the Indian tribe under a funding  
23 agreement for programs in an amount that is equal  
24 to the amount that the Indian tribe would have been  
25 entitled to receive under contracts and grants under

1       this Act (including amounts for direct program and  
2       contract support costs and, in addition, any funds  
3       that are specifically or functionally related to the  
4       provision by the Secretary of services and benefits to  
5       the Indian tribe or its members) without regard to  
6       the organization level within the Department at  
7       which the programs are carried out.

8               “(2) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section  
9       reduces programs, services, or funds of, or provided  
10      to, another Indian tribe.

11      “(d) TIMING.—

12              “(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to the terms of  
13      any compact or funding agreement entered into  
14      under this title, the Secretary shall transfer to the  
15      Indian tribe all funds provided for in the funding  
16      agreement, pursuant to subsection (c), and provide  
17      funding for periods covered by joint resolution  
18      adopted by Congress making continuing appropria-  
19      tions, to the extent permitted by such resolution.

20              “(2) TRANSFERS.—Not later than 1 year after  
21      the date of enactment of the Department of the In-  
22      terior Tribal Self-Governance Act of 2015, in any in-  
23      stance in which a funding agreement requires an an-  
24      nual transfer of funding to be made at the beginning  
25      of a fiscal year or requires semiannual or other peri-

1        odic transfers of funding to be made commencing at  
2        the beginning of a fiscal year, the first such transfer  
3        shall be made not later than 10 days after the ap-  
4        portionment of such funds by the Office of Manage-  
5        ment and Budget to the Department, unless the  
6        funding agreement provides otherwise.

7        “(e) AVAILABILITY.—Funds for trust services to indi-  
8        vidual Indians shall be available under a funding agree-  
9        ment only to the extent that the same services that would  
10       have been provided by the Secretary are provided to indi-  
11       vidual Indians by the Indian tribe.

12       “(f) MULTIYEAR FUNDING.—A funding agreement  
13       may provide for multiyear funding.

14       “(g) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORITY OF THE SEC-  
15       RETARY.—The Secretary shall not—

16                “(1) fail to transfer to an Indian tribe its full  
17       share of any central, headquarters, regional, area, or  
18       service unit office or other funds due under this title  
19       for programs eligible under paragraph (1) or (2) of  
20       section 403(b), except as required by Federal law;

21                “(2) withhold any portion of such funds for  
22       transfer over a period of years; or

23                “(3) reduce the amount of funds required under  
24       this title—

1           “(A) to make funding available for self-  
 2           governance monitoring or administration by the  
 3           Secretary;

4           “(B) in subsequent years, except as nec-  
 5           essary as a result of—

6                   “(i) a reduction in appropriations  
 7                   from the previous fiscal year for the pro-  
 8                   gram to be included in a compact or fund-  
 9                   ing agreement;

10                   “(ii) a congressional directive in legis-  
 11                   lation or an accompanying report;

12                   “(iii) a tribal authorization;

13                   “(iv) a change in the amount of pass-  
 14                   through funds subject to the terms of the  
 15                   funding agreement; or

16                   “(v) completion of an activity under a  
 17                   program for which the funds were pro-  
 18                   vided;

19           “(C) to pay for Federal functions, includ-  
 20           ing—

21                   “(i) Federal pay costs;

22                   “(ii) Federal employee retirement ben-  
 23                   efits;

24                   “(iii) automated data processing;

25                   “(iv) technical assistance; and



1                   “(v) monitoring of activities under  
2                   this title; or

3                   “(D) to pay for costs of Federal personnel  
4                   displaced by self-determination contracts under  
5                   this Act or self-governance under this title.

6           “(h) FEDERAL RESOURCES.—If an Indian tribe  
7           elects to carry out a compact or funding agreement with  
8           the use of Federal personnel, Federal supplies (including  
9           supplies available from Federal warehouse facilities), Fed-  
10          eral supply sources (including lodging, airline transpor-  
11          tation, and other means of transportation, including the  
12          use of interagency motor pool vehicles), or other Federal  
13          resources (including supplies, services, and resources  
14          available to the Secretary under any procurement con-  
15          tracts in which the Department is eligible to participate),  
16          the Secretary shall, as soon as practicable, acquire and  
17          transfer such personnel, supplies, or resources to the In-  
18          dian tribe under this title.

19          “(i) PROMPT PAYMENT ACT.—Chapter 39 of title 31,  
20          United States Code, shall apply to the transfer of funds  
21          due under a compact or funding agreement authorized  
22          under this title.

23          “(j) INTEREST OR OTHER INCOME.—

24                  “(1) IN GENERAL.—An Indian tribe may retain  
25                  interest or income earned on any funds paid under

1 a compact or funding agreement to carry out gov-  
2 ernmental purposes.

3 “(2) NO EFFECT ON OTHER AMOUNTS.—The  
4 retention of interest or income under paragraph (1)  
5 shall not diminish the amount of funds an Indian  
6 tribe is entitled to receive under a funding agree-  
7 ment in the year the interest or income is earned or  
8 in any subsequent fiscal year.

9 “(3) INVESTMENT STANDARD.—Funds trans-  
10 ferred under this title shall be managed by the In-  
11 dian tribe using the prudent investment standard,  
12 provided that the Secretary shall not be liable for  
13 any investment losses of funds managed by the In-  
14 dian tribe that are not otherwise guaranteed or in-  
15 sured by the Federal Government.

16 “(k) CARRYOVER OF FUNDS.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any provi-  
18 sion of an appropriations Act, all funds paid to an  
19 Indian tribe in accordance with a compact or fund-  
20 ing agreement shall remain available until expended.

21 “(2) EFFECT OF CARRYOVER.—If an Indian  
22 tribe elects to carry over funding from 1 year to the  
23 next, the carryover shall not diminish the amount of  
24 funds the Indian tribe is entitled to receive under a

1 funding agreement in that fiscal year or any subse-  
2 quent fiscal year.

3 “(l) LIMITATION OF COSTS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An Indian tribe shall not  
5 be obligated to continue performance that requires  
6 an expenditure of funds in excess of the amount of  
7 funds transferred under a compact or funding agree-  
8 ment.

9 “(2) NOTICE OF INSUFFICIENCY.—If at any  
10 time the Indian tribe has reason to believe that the  
11 total amount provided for a specific activity under a  
12 compact or funding agreement is insufficient, the In-  
13 dian tribe shall provide reasonable notice of such in-  
14 sufficiency to the Secretary.

15 “(3) SUSPENSION OF PERFORMANCE.—If, after  
16 notice under paragraph (2), the Secretary does not  
17 increase the amount of funds transferred under the  
18 funding agreement, the Indian tribe may suspend  
19 performance of the activity until such time as addi-  
20 tional funds are transferred.

21 “(4) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section  
22 reduces any programs, services, or funds of, or pro-  
23 vided to, another Indian tribe.

24 “(m) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—The Office of Self-  
25 Governance shall be responsible for distribution of all Bu-

1 reau of Indian Affairs funds provided under this title un-  
 2 less otherwise agreed by the parties to an applicable fund-  
 3 ing agreement.

4 “(n) **APPLICABILITY.**—Notwithstanding any other  
 5 provision of this section, section 202 of the Department  
 6 of the Interior Tribal Self-Governance Act of 2015 applies  
 7 to subsections (a) through (m).

8 **“SEC. 409. FACILITATION.**

9 “(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as otherwise provided by  
 10 law (including section 202 of the Department of the Inte-  
 11 rior Tribal Self-Governance Act of 2015), the Secretary  
 12 shall interpret each Federal law and regulation in a man-  
 13 ner that facilitates—

14 “(1) the inclusion of programs in funding  
 15 agreements; and

16 “(2) the implementation of funding agreements.

17 “(b) **REGULATION WAIVER.**—

18 “(1) **REQUEST.**—An Indian tribe may submit  
 19 to the Secretary a written request for a waiver of  
 20 applicability of a Federal regulation, including—

21 “(A) an identification of the specific text in  
 22 the regulation sought to be waived; and

23 “(B) the basis for the request.

24 “(2) **DETERMINATION BY THE SECRETARY.**—

25 Not later than 120 days after receipt by the Sec-

1       retary and the designated officials under paragraph  
 2       (4) of a request under paragraph (1), the Secretary  
 3       shall approve or deny the requested waiver in writ-  
 4       ing to the Indian tribe.

5           “(3) EXTENSIONS.—The deadline described in  
 6       paragraph (2) may be extended for any length of  
 7       time, as agreed upon by both the Indian tribe and  
 8       the Secretary.

9           “(4) DESIGNATED OFFICIALS.—The Secretary  
 10      shall designate one or more appropriate officials in  
 11      the Department to receive a copy of the waiver re-  
 12      quest described in paragraph (1).

13          “(5) GROUNDS FOR DENIAL.—The Secretary  
 14      may deny a request under paragraph (1)—

15           “(A) for a program eligible under para-  
 16      graph (1) or (2) of section 403(b), only upon a  
 17      specific finding by the Secretary that the identi-  
 18      fied text in the regulation may not be waived  
 19      because such a waiver is prohibited by Federal  
 20      law; and

21           “(B) for a program eligible under section  
 22      403(c), upon a specific finding by the Secretary  
 23      that the waiver is prohibited by Federal law or  
 24      is inconsistent with the express provisions of  
 25      the funding agreement.

1           “(6) FAILURE TO MAKE DETERMINATION.—If  
 2           the Secretary fails to approve or deny a waiver re-  
 3           quest within the period required under paragraph  
 4           (2), the Secretary shall be deemed to have approved  
 5           the request.

6           “(7) FINALITY.—A decision of the Secretary  
 7           under this section shall be final for the Department.

8   **“SEC. 410. DISCLAIMERS.**

9           “Nothing in this title expands or alters any statutory  
 10          authority of the Secretary in a manner that authorizes the  
 11          Secretary to enter into any agreement under section  
 12          403—

13           “(1) with respect to an inherent Federal func-  
 14          tion;

15           “(2) in a case in which the law establishing a  
 16          program explicitly prohibits the type of participation  
 17          sought by the Indian tribe (without regard to wheth-  
 18          er one or more Indian tribes are identified in the au-  
 19          thorizing law); or

20           “(3) that limits or reduces in any way the serv-  
 21          ices, contracts, or funds that any other Indian tribe  
 22          or tribal organization is eligible to receive under sec-  
 23          tion 102 or any other applicable Federal law.

1 **“SEC. 411. DISCRETIONARY APPLICATION OF OTHER SEC-**  
2 **TIONS.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in  
4 section 101(c), at the option of a participating Indian tribe  
5 or Indian tribes, any of the provisions of title I may be  
6 incorporated in any compact or funding agreement under  
7 this title.

8 “(b) EFFECT.—Each incorporated provision under  
9 subsection (a) shall—

10 “(1) have the same force and effect as if set out  
11 in full in this title;

12 “(2) supplement or replace any related provi-  
13 sion in this title; and

14 “(3) apply to any agency otherwise governed by  
15 this title.

16 “(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—If an Indian tribe requests  
17 incorporation at the negotiation stage of a compact or  
18 funding agreement, the incorporation shall—

19 “(1) be effective immediately; and

20 “(2) control the negotiation and resulting com-  
21 pact and funding agreement.

22 **“SEC. 412. ANNUAL BUDGET LIST.**

23 “The Secretary shall list, in the annual budget re-  
24 quest submitted to Congress under section 1105 of title  
25 31, United States Code, any funds proposed to be included  
26 in funding agreements authorized under this Act.

1 **“SEC. 413. REPORTS.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

3 “(1) REQUIREMENT.—On January 1 of each  
4 year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a re-  
5 port regarding the administration of this title.

6 “(2) ANALYSIS.—Any Indian tribe may submit  
7 to the Office of Self-Governance and to the appro-  
8 priate Committees of Congress a detailed annual  
9 analysis of unmet tribal needs for funding agree-  
10 ments under this title.

11 “(b) CONTENTS.—The report under subsection (a)(1)  
12 shall—

13 “(1) be compiled from information contained in  
14 funding agreements, annual audit reports, and data  
15 of the Secretary regarding the disposition of Federal  
16 funds;

17 “(2) identify—

18 “(A) the relative costs and benefits of self-  
19 governance;

20 “(B) with particularity, all funds that are  
21 specifically or functionally related to the provi-  
22 sion by the Secretary of services and benefits to  
23 self-governance Indian tribes and members of  
24 Indian tribes;



1           “(C) the funds transferred to each Indian  
2           tribe and the corresponding reduction in the  
3           Federal employees and workload; and

4           “(D) the funding formula for individual  
5           tribal shares of all Central Office funds, to-  
6           gether with the comments of affected Indian  
7           tribes, developed under subsection (d);

8           “(3) before being submitted to Congress, be dis-  
9           tributed to the Indian tribes for comment (with a  
10          comment period of no less than 30 days);

11          “(4) include the separate views and comments  
12          of each Indian tribe or tribal organization; and

13          “(5) include a list of—

14               “(A) all such programs that the Secretary  
15               determines, in consultation with Indian tribes  
16               participating in self-governance, are eligible for  
17               negotiation to be included in a funding agree-  
18               ment at the request of a participating Indian  
19               tribe; and

20               “(B) all such programs which Indian tribes  
21               have formally requested to include in a funding  
22               agreement under section 403(c) due to the spe-  
23               cial geographic, historical, or cultural signifi-  
24               cance of the program to the Indian tribe, indi-

1           cating whether each request was granted or de-  
2           nied, and stating the grounds for any denial.

3           “(c) REPORT ON NON-BIA, NON-OST PROGRAMS.—

4           “(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to optimize oppor-  
5           tunities for including non-Bureau of Indian Affairs  
6           and non-Office of Special Trustee programs in  
7           agreements with Indian tribes participating in self-  
8           governance under this title, the Secretary shall re-  
9           view all programs administered by the Department,  
10          other than through the Bureau of Indian Affairs or  
11          Office of the Special Trustee, without regard to the  
12          agency or office concerned.

13          “(2) PROGRAMMATIC TARGETS.—The Secretary  
14          shall establish programmatic targets, after consulta-  
15          tion with Indian tribes participating in self-govern-  
16          ance, to encourage bureaus of the Department to en-  
17          sure that an appropriate portion of those programs  
18          are available to be included in funding agreements.

19          “(3) PUBLICATION.—The lists under subsection  
20          (b)(5) and targets under paragraph (2) shall be pub-  
21          lished in the Federal Register and made available to  
22          any Indian tribe participating in self-governance.

23          “(4) ANNUAL REVIEW.—

24                  “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall  
25                  annually review and publish in the Federal Reg-

1           ister, after consultation with Indian tribes par-  
2           ticipating in self-governance, revised lists and  
3           programmatic targets.

4           “(B) CONTENTS.—In preparing the revised  
5           lists and programmatic targets, the Secretary  
6           shall consider all programs that were eligible  
7           for contracting in the original list published in  
8           the Federal Register in 1995, except for pro-  
9           grams specifically determined not to be  
10          contractible as a matter of law.

11          “(d) REPORT ON CENTRAL OFFICE FUNDS.—Not  
12         later than January 1, 2016, the Secretary shall, in con-  
13         sultation with Indian tribes, develop a funding formula to  
14         determine the individual tribal share of funds controlled  
15         by the Central Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and  
16         the Office of the Special Trustee for inclusion in the com-  
17         pacts.

18         **“SEC. 414. REGULATIONS.**

19           “(a) IN GENERAL.—

20           “(1) PROMULGATION.—Not later than 90 days  
21         after the date of enactment of the Department of  
22         the Interior Tribal Self-Governance Act of 2015, the  
23         Secretary shall initiate procedures under subchapter  
24         III of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, to

1 negotiate and promulgate such regulations as are  
2 necessary to carry out this title.

3 “(2) PUBLICATION OF PROPOSED REGULA-  
4 TIONS.—Proposed regulations to implement this title  
5 shall be published in the Federal Register not later  
6 than 21 months after the date of enactment of the  
7 Department of the Interior Tribal Self-Governance  
8 Act of 2015.

9 “(3) EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.—The author-  
10 ity to promulgate regulations under paragraph (1)  
11 shall expire on the date that is 30 months after the  
12 date of enactment of the Department of the Interior  
13 Tribal Self-Governance Act of 2015.

14 “(b) COMMITTEE.—

15 “(1) MEMBERSHIP.—A negotiated rulemaking  
16 committee established pursuant to section 565 of  
17 title 5, United States Code, to carry out this section  
18 shall have as its members only representatives of the  
19 Federal Government and tribal government.

20 “(2) LEAD AGENCY.—Among the Federal rep-  
21 resentatives described in paragraph (1), the Office of  
22 Self-Governance shall be the lead agency for the De-  
23 partment.

24 “(c) ADAPTATION OF PROCEDURES.—The Secretary  
25 shall adapt the negotiated rulemaking procedures to the

1 unique context of self-governance and the government-to-  
 2 government relationship between the United States and  
 3 Indian tribes.

4 “(d) EFFECT.—

5 “(1) REPEAL.—The Secretary may repeal any  
 6 regulation that is inconsistent with this Act.

7 “(2) CONFLICTING PROVISIONS.—Subject to  
 8 section 202 of the Department of the Interior Tribal  
 9 Self-Governance Act of 2015, this title shall super-  
 10 sede any conflicting provision of law (including any  
 11 conflicting regulations).

12 “(3) EFFECTIVENESS WITHOUT REGARD TO  
 13 REGULATIONS.—The lack of promulgated regula-  
 14 tions on an issue shall not limit the effect or imple-  
 15 mentation of this title.

16 **“SEC. 415. EFFECT OF CIRCULARS, POLICIES, MANUALS,**  
 17 **GUIDANCE, AND RULES.**

18 “Unless expressly agreed to by a participating Indian  
 19 tribe in a compact or funding agreement, the participating  
 20 Indian tribe shall not be subject to any agency circular,  
 21 policy, manual, guidance, or rule adopted by the Depart-  
 22 ment, except for—

23 “(1) the eligibility provisions of section 105(g);  
 24 and

1           “(2) regulations promulgated pursuant to sec-  
2           tion 414.

3   **“SEC. 416. APPEALS.**

4           “Except as provided in section 406(d), in any admin-  
5   istrative action, appeal, or civil action for judicial review  
6   of any decision made by the Secretary under this title,  
7   the Secretary shall have the burden of proof of dem-  
8   onstrating by a preponderance of the evidence—

9           “(1) the validity of the grounds for the decision;  
10          and

11          “(2) the consistency of the decision with the re-  
12          quirements and policies of this title.

13   **“SEC. 417. APPLICATION OF OTHER PROVISIONS.**

14          “Section 314 of the Department of the Interior and  
15   Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1991 (Public Law  
16   101–512; 104 Stat. 1959), shall apply to compacts and  
17   funding agreements entered into under this title.

18   **“SEC. 418. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

19          “There are authorized to be appropriated such sums  
20   as are necessary to carry out this title.”.

21   **SEC. 202. EFFECT OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.**

22          (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23               (1) FUNDING AGREEMENT.—The term “fund-  
24          ing agreement” means a funding agreement entered

1 into under section 403 of the ISDEAA (25 U.S.C.  
2 458cc).

3 (2) ISDEAA.—The term “ISDEAA” means  
4 the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assist-  
5 ance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.).

6 (3) NON-BIA PROGRAM.—The term “non-BIA  
7 program” means all or a portion of a program, func-  
8 tion, service, or activity that is administered by any  
9 bureau, service, office, or agency of the Department  
10 of the Interior other than through—

11 (A) the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

12 (B) the Office of the Assistant Secretary  
13 for Indian Affairs; or

14 (C) the Office of the Special Trustee for  
15 American Indians.

16 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
17 the Secretary of the Interior.

18 (5) SELF-DETERMINATION CONTRACT.—The  
19 term “self-determination contract” means a self-de-  
20 termination contract entered into under section 102  
21 of the ISDEAA (25 U.S.C. 450f).

22 (6) TRIBAL WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT.—The  
23 term “tribal water rights settlement” means any set-  
24 tlement, compact, or other agreement expressly rati-  
25 fied or approved by an Act of Congress that—

1 (A) includes an Indian tribe and the  
 2 United States as parties; and

3 (B) quantifies or otherwise defines any  
 4 water right of the Indian tribe.

5 (b) EFFECT OF PROVISIONS.—Nothing in this Act—

6 (1) modifies, limits, expands, or otherwise af-  
 7 fects—

8 (A) the authority of the Secretary, as pro-  
 9 vided for under the ISDEAA on the day before  
 10 the date of enactment of this Act, to include  
 11 any non-BIA program in a self-determination  
 12 contract under section 102(a)(1)(E) of the  
 13 ISDEAA (25 U.S.C. 450f(a)(1)(E)) or a fund-  
 14 ing agreement under section 403(b)(2) or  
 15 403(c) of the ISDEAA (25 U.S.C. 458cc(b)(2),  
 16 458cc(c)); or

17 (B) the implementation of any contract or  
 18 agreement described in subparagraph (A) that  
 19 is in effect on the day before the date of enact-  
 20 ment of this Act;

21 (2) modifies or otherwise affects the meaning,  
 22 application, or effect of any provision of law that—

23 (A) is not contained in the ISDEAA; and

24 (B) expressly authorizes or prohibits con-  
 25 tracting or compacting under title I or title IV



1           of the ISDEAA with respect to a specific pro-  
2           gram or project that is identified or otherwise  
3           referred to in that provision of law;

4           (3) modifies or otherwise affects the meaning,  
5           application, or effect of, or the performance required  
6           of a party to, or any payment or funding under a  
7           tribal water rights settlement; or

8           (4) authorizes any self-determination contract  
9           or funding agreement that contains one or more pro-  
10          visions that are inconsistent with the terms of a trib-  
11          al water rights settlement.

Passed the Senate July 7, 2015.

Attest:

JULIE E. ADAMS,

*Secretary.*