

PUBLIC LAW 105-156—FEB. 11, 1998

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND CONFLICT  
RESOLUTION ACT OF 1998

Public Law 105-156  
105th Congress  
An Act

Feb. 11, 1998  
[H.R. 3042]

Environmental  
Policy and  
Conflict  
Resolution Act of  
1998  
20 USC 5601  
note.

To amend the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental and Native American Public Policy Act of 1992 to establish the United States Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution to conduct environmental conflict resolution and training, and for other purposes.

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Environmental Policy and Conflict Resolution Act of 1998”.

**SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

Section 4 of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental and Native American Public Policy Act of 1992 (20 U.S.C. 5602) is amended—

- (1) by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (5), (9), (7), and (8), respectively;
- (2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) the term ‘environmental dispute’ means a dispute or conflict relating to the environment, public lands, or natural resources;”;
- (3) by inserting after paragraph (5) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)) the following:

“(6) the term ‘Institute’ means the United States Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution established pursuant to section 7(a)(1)(D);”;
- (4) in paragraph (7) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)), by striking “and” at the end;
- (5) in paragraph (8) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;
- (6) in paragraph (9) (as redesignated by paragraph (1))—
  - (A) by striking “fund” and inserting “Trust Fund”; and
  - (B) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period.

**SEC. 3. BOARD OF TRUSTEES.**

Section 5(b) of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental and Native American Public Policy Act of 1992 (20 U.S.C. 5603(b)) is amended—

- (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) of the second sentence, by striking “twelve” and inserting “thirteen”; and
- (2) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) The chairperson of the President’s Council on Environmental Quality, who shall serve as a nonvoting, ex officio member and shall not be eligible to serve as chairperson.”.

#### SEC. 4. PURPOSE.

Section 6 of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental and Native American Public Policy Act of 1992 (20 U.S.C. 5604) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking “an Environmental Conflict Resolution” and inserting “Environmental Conflict Resolution and Training”;

(2) in paragraph (6), by striking “and” at the end;

(3) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) establish as part of the Foundation the United States Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution to assist the Federal Government in implementing section 101 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4331) by providing assessment, mediation, and other related services to resolve environmental disputes involving agencies and instrumentalities of the United States; and

“(9) complement the direction established by the President in Executive Order No. 12988 (61 Fed. Reg. 4729; relating to civil justice reform.”.

#### SEC. 5. AUTHORITY.

Section 7(a) of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental and Native American Public Policy Act of 1992 (20 U.S.C. 5605(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following:

“(D) INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICT  
RESOLUTION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation shall—

“(I) establish the United States Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution as part of the Foundation; and

“(II) identify and conduct such programs, activities, and services as the Foundation determines appropriate to permit the Foundation to provide assessment, mediation, training, and other related services to resolve environmental disputes.

“(ii) GEOGRAPHIC PROXIMITY OF CONFLICT  
RESOLUTION PROVISION.—In providing assessment, mediation, training, and other related services under clause (i)(II) to resolve environmental disputes, the Foundation shall consider, to the maximum extent practicable, conflict resolution providers within the geographic proximity of the conflict.”; and

(2) in paragraph (7), by inserting “and Training” after “Conflict Resolution”.

#### SEC. 6. ENVIRONMENTAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION FUND.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—Sections 10 and 11 of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental and Native American Public Policy Act of 1992 (20 U.S.C. 5608, 5609) are redesignated as sections 12 and 13 of the Act, respectively.

(b) ENVIRONMENTAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION FUND.—The Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental and Native American Public Policy Act of 1992 (20 U.S.C. 5601 et seq.) (as amended by subsection (a)) is amended by inserting after section 9 the following:

20 USC 5608a.

**“SEC. 10. ENVIRONMENTAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION FUND.**

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States an Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund to be administered by the Foundation. The Fund shall consist of amounts appropriated to the Fund under section 13(b) and amounts paid into the Fund under section 11.

“(b) EXPENDITURES.—The Foundation shall expend from the Fund such sums as the Board determines are necessary to establish and operate the Institute, including such amounts as are necessary for salaries, administration, the provision of mediation and other services, and such other expenses as the Board determines are necessary.

“(c) DISTINCTION FROM TRUST FUND.—The Fund shall be maintained separately from the Trust Fund established under section 8.

“(d) INVESTMENT OF AMOUNTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall invest such portion of the Fund as is not, in the judgment of the Secretary, required to meet current withdrawals.

“(2) INTEREST-BEARING OBLIGATIONS.—Investments may be made only in interest-bearing obligations of the United States.

“(3) ACQUISITION OF OBLIGATIONS.—For the purpose of investments under paragraph (1), obligations may be acquired—

“(A) on original issue at the issue price; or

“(B) by purchase of outstanding obligations at the market price.

“(4) SALE OF OBLIGATIONS.—Any obligation acquired by the Fund may be sold by the Secretary of the Treasury at the market price.

“(5) CREDITS TO FUND.—The interest on, and the proceeds from the sale or redemption of, any obligations held in the Fund shall be credited to and form a part of the Fund.”.

**SEC. 7. USE OF THE INSTITUTE BY A FEDERAL AGENCY.**

The Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental and Native American Policy Act of 1992 (20 U.S.C. 5601 et seq.) (as amended by section 6) is amended by inserting after section 10 the following:

20 USC 5608b.

**“SEC. 11. USE OF THE INSTITUTE BY A FEDERAL AGENCY.**

“(a) AUTHORIZATION.—A Federal agency may use the Foundation and the Institute to provide assessment, mediation, or other related services in connection with a dispute or conflict related to the environment, public lands, or natural resources.

“(b) PAYMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A Federal agency may enter into a contract and expend funds to obtain the services of the Institute.

“(2) PAYMENT INTO ENVIRONMENTAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION FUND.—A payment from an executive agency on a contract entered into under paragraph (1) shall be paid into the Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund established under section 10.

“(c) NOTIFICATION AND CONCURRENCE.—

“(1) NOTIFICATION.—An agency or instrumentality of the Federal Government shall notify the chairperson of the President’s Council on Environmental Quality when using the Foundation or the Institute to provide the services described in subsection (a).

“(2) NOTIFICATION DESCRIPTIONS.—In a matter involving two or more agencies or instrumentalities of the Federal Government, notification under paragraph (1) shall include a written description of—

“(A) the issues and parties involved;

“(B) prior efforts, if any, undertaken by the agency to resolve or address the issue or issues;

“(C) all Federal agencies or instrumentalities with a direct interest or involvement in the matter and a statement that all Federal agencies or instrumentalities agree to dispute resolution; and

“(D) other relevant information.

“(3) CONCURRENCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In a matter that involves two or more agencies or instrumentalities of the Federal Government (including branches or divisions of a single agency or instrumentality), the agencies or instrumentalities of the Federal Government shall obtain the concurrence of the chairperson of the President’s Council on Environmental Quality before using the Foundation or Institute to provide the services described in subsection (a).

“(B) INDICATION OF CONCURRENCE OR NONCONCURRENCE.—The chairperson of the President’s Council on Environmental Quality shall indicate concurrence or nonconcurrence under subparagraph (A) not later than 20 days after receiving notice under paragraph (2).

“(d) EXCEPTIONS.—

“(1) LEGAL ISSUES AND ENFORCEMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A dispute or conflict involving agencies or instrumentalities of the Federal Government (including branches or divisions of a single agency or instrumentality) that concern purely legal issues or matters, interpretation or determination of law, or enforcement of law by one agency against another agency shall not be submitted to the Foundation or Institute.

“(B) APPLICABILITY.—Subparagraph (A) does not apply to a dispute or conflict concerning—

“(i) agency implementation of a program or project;

“(ii) a matter involving two or more agencies with parallel authority requiring facilitation and coordination of the various Government agencies; or

“(iii) a nonlegal policy or decisionmaking matter that involves two or more agencies that are jointly operating a project.

“(2) OTHER MANDATED MECHANISMS OR AVENUES.—A dispute or conflict involving agencies or instrumentalities of the Federal Government (including branches or divisions of a single agency or instrumentality) for which Congress by law has mandated another dispute resolution mechanism or avenue to address or resolve shall not be submitted to the Foundation or Institute.”.

**SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 13 of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental and Native American Public Policy Act of 1992 (as redesignated by section 6(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “There are authorized to be appropriated to the Fund” and inserting the following:

“(a) TRUST FUND.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Trust Fund”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

(b) ENVIRONMENTAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION FUND.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund established under section 10—

“(1) \$4,250,000 for fiscal year 1998, of which—

“(A) \$3,000,000 shall be for capitalization; and

“(B) \$1,250,000 shall be for operation costs; and

“(2) \$1,250,000 for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002 for operation costs.”

**SEC. 9. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

(a) The second sentence of section 8(a) of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental and Native American Public Policy Act of 1992 (20 U.S.C. 5606) is amended—

(1) by striking “fund” and inserting “Trust Fund”; and

(2) by striking “section 11” and inserting “section 13(a)”.

(b) Sections 7(a)(6), 8(b), and 9(a) of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental and Native American Public Policy Act of 1992 (20 U.S.C. 5605(a)(6), 5606(b), and 5607(a)) are each amended by striking “Fund” and inserting “Trust Fund” each place it appears.

Approved February 11, 1998.

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**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 3042 (S. 399):****CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:**

Vol. 143 (1997): Nov. 13, considered and passed House.

Vol. 144 (1998): Jan. 29, considered and passed Senate.

