

§ 4022. Voluntary withdrawal from trust funds program

(a) In general

An Indian tribe may, in accordance with this section, submit a plan to withdraw some or all funds held in trust for such tribe by the United States and managed by the Secretary through the Bureau.

(b) Approval of plan

The Secretary shall approve such plan within 90 days of receipt and when approving the plan, the Secretary shall obtain the advice of the Special Trustee or prior to the appointment of such Special Trustee, the Director of the Office of Trust Fund Management within the Bureau. Such plan shall meet the following conditions:

(1) Such plan has been approved by the appropriate Indian tribe and is accompanied by a resolution from the tribal governing body approving the plan.

(2) The Secretary determines such plan to be reasonable after considering all appropriate factors, including (but not limited to) the following:

(A) The capability and experience of the individuals or institutions that will be managing the trust funds.

(B) The protection against substantial loss of principal.

(c) Dissolution of trust responsibility

Beginning on the date funds are withdrawn pursuant to this section, any trust responsibility or liability of the United States with respect to such funds shall cease except as provided for in section 4027 of this title.

(Pub. L. 103-412, title II, §202, Oct. 25, 1994, 108 Stat. 4242.)

§ 4023. Judgment funds

(a) In general

The Secretary is authorized to approve plans under section 4022 of this title for the withdrawal of judgment funds held by the Secretary.

(b) Limitation

Only such funds held by the Secretary under the terms of the Indian Judgment Funds Use or Distribution Act [25 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.] or an Act of Congress which provides for the secretarial management of such judgment funds shall be included in such plans.

(c) Secretarial duties

In approving such plans, the Secretary shall ensure—

(1) that the purpose and use of the judgment funds identified in the previously approved judgment fund plan will continue to be followed by the Indian tribe in the management of the judgment funds; and

(2) that only funds held for Indian tribes may be withdrawn and that any funds held for individual tribal members are not to be included in the plan.

(Pub. L. 103-412, title II, §203, Oct. 25, 1994, 108 Stat. 4242.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Indian Judgment Funds Use or Distribution Act, referred to in subsec. (b), probably means the Indian Tribal Judgment Funds Use or Distribution Act, Pub. L. 93-134, Oct. 19, 1973, 87 Stat. 466, which is classified generally to chapter 16 (§1401 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Tables.

§ 4024. Technical assistance

The Secretary shall—

(1) directly or by contract, provide Indian tribes with technical assistance in developing, implementing, and managing Indian trust fund investment plans; and

(2) among other things, ensure that legal, financial, and other expertise of the Department of the Interior has been made fully available in an advisory capacity to the Indian tribes to assist in the development, implementation, and management of investment plans.

(Pub. L. 103-412, title II, §204, Oct. 25, 1994, 108 Stat. 4243.)

§ 4025. Grant program

(a) General authority

The Secretary is authorized to award grants to Indian tribes for the purpose of developing and implementing plans for the investment of Indian tribal trust funds.

(b) Use of funds

The purposes for which funds provided under this section may be used include (but are not limited to)—

(1) the training and education of employees responsible for monitoring the investment of trust funds;

(2) the building of tribal capacity for the investment and management of trust funds;

(3) the development of a comprehensive tribal investment plan;

(4) the implementation and management of tribal trust fund investment plans; and

(5) such other purposes related to this subchapter that the Secretary deems appropriate.

(Pub. L. 103-412, title II, §205, Oct. 25, 1994, 108 Stat. 4243.)

§ 4026. Return of withdrawn funds

Subject to such conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, any Indian tribe which has withdrawn trust funds may choose to return any or all of the trust funds such tribe has withdrawn by notifying the Secretary in writing of its intention to return the funds to the control and management of the Secretary.

(Pub. L. 103-412, title II, §206, Oct. 25, 1994, 108 Stat. 4243.)

§ 4027. Savings provision

By submitting or approving a plan under this subchapter, neither the tribe nor the Secretary shall be deemed to have accepted the account balance as accurate or to have waived any rights regarding such balance and to seek compensation.

(Pub. L. 103-412, title II, §207, Oct. 25, 1994, 108 Stat. 4243.)

§ 4028. Report to Congress

The Secretary shall, beginning one year after October 25, 1994, submit an annual report to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate on the implementation of programs under this subchapter. Such report shall include recommendations (if any) for changes necessary to better implement the purpose of this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 103-412, title II, §208, Oct. 25, 1994, 108 Stat. 4243.)

§ 4029. Regulations

(a) In general

Not later than 12 months after October 25, 1994, the Secretary shall promulgate final regulations for the implementation of this subchapter. All regulations promulgated pursuant to this subchapter shall be developed by the Secretary with the full and active participation of the Indian tribes with trust funds held by the Secretary and other affected Indian tribes.

(b) Effect

The lack of promulgated regulations shall not limit the effect of this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 103-412, title II, §209, Oct. 25, 1994, 108 Stat. 4243.)

SUBCHAPTER III—SPECIAL TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN INDIANS

§ 4041. Purposes

The purposes of this subchapter are—

(1) to provide for more effective management of, and accountability for the proper discharge of, the Secretary's trust responsibilities to Indian tribes and individual Indians by establishing in the Department of the Interior an Office of Special Trustee for American Indians to oversee and coordinate reforms within the Department of practices relating to the management and discharge of such responsibilities;

(2) to ensure that reform of such practices in the Department is carried out in a unified manner and that reforms of the policies, practices, procedures and systems of the Bureau, Minerals Management Service, and Bureau of Land Management, which carry out such trust responsibilities, are effective, consistent, and integrated; and

(3) to ensure the implementation of all reforms necessary for the proper discharge of the Secretary's trust responsibilities to Indian tribes and individual Indians.

(Pub. L. 103-412, title III, §301, Oct. 25, 1994, 108 Stat. 4244.)

Executive Documents

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

The Minerals Management Service was abolished and functions divided among the Office of Natural Resources Revenue, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Manage-

ment, and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. See Secretary of the Interior Orders No. 3299 of May 19, 2010, and No. 3302 of June 18, 2010, and chapters II, V, and XII of title 30, Code of Federal Regulations, as revised by final rules of the Department of the Interior at 75 F.R. 61051 and 76 F.R. 64432.

§ 4042. Office of Special Trustee for American Indians

(a) Establishment

There is hereby established within the Department of the Interior the Office of Special Trustee for American Indians. The Office shall be headed by the Special Trustee who shall report directly to the Secretary.

(b) Special Trustee

(1) Appointment

The Special Trustee shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, from among individuals who possess demonstrated ability in general management of large governmental or business entities and particular knowledge of trust fund management, management of financial institutions, and the investment of large sums of money.

(2) Compensation

The Special Trustee shall be paid at a rate determined by the Secretary to be appropriate for the position, but not less than the rate of basic pay payable at Level II of the Executive Schedule under section 5313 of title 5.

(c) Termination of Office

(1) Conditioned upon implementation of reforms

The Special Trustee, in proposing a termination date under section 4043(a)(2)(C) of this title, shall ensure continuation of the Office until all reforms identified in the strategic plan have been implemented to the satisfaction of the Special Trustee.

(2) 30-day notice

Thirty days prior to the termination date proposed in the plan submitted under this section, the Special Trustee shall notify the Secretary and the Congress in writing of the progress in implementing the reforms identified in the plan. The Special Trustee, at that time, may recommend the continuation, or the permanent establishment, of the Office if the Special Trustee concludes that continuation or permanent establishment is necessary for the efficient discharge of the Secretary's trust responsibilities.

(3) Termination date

The Office shall terminate 180 legislative days after the date on which the notice to the Congress under paragraph (2) is provided, unless the Congress extends the authorities of the Special Trustee. For the purposes of this section, a legislative day is a day on which either House of the Congress is in session.

(Pub. L. 103-412, title III, §302, Oct. 25, 1994, 108 Stat. 4244.)