

Public Law 100-420  
100th Congress

An Act

To clarify the Federal relationship to the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians as a distinct Indian tribe, to clarify the status of members of the band, to transfer title to trust lands, and for other purposes.

Sept. 8, 1988

[H.R. 3679]

*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 "Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians Act".

Lac Vieux  
Desert Band of  
Lake Superior  
Chippewa  
Indians Act.  
25 USC 1300h  
note.  
25 USC 1300h.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, although currently recognized by the Federal Government as part of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, has historically existed, and continues to exist, as a separate and distinct Indian tribe that is located over 75 miles from the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community;

(2) the Lac Vieux Desert Band consists of approximately 250 members who continue to reside close to their ancestral homeland near the town of Watersmeet, Michigan;

(3) the Lac Vieux Desert Band entered into two treaties with the United States as a distinct tribal entity (7 Stat. 591, 10 Stat. 1109);

(4) members of the Lac Vieux Desert Band currently reside on or otherwise occupy lands within the Township of Watersmeet, Michigan, which are held by the United States in trust for the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, and currently receive limited Federal benefits through the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community; and

(5) because of its distance from Keweenaw Bay and the failure of the United States to recognize the independent status of the tribe, the Lac Vieux Desert Band and its members receive only limited benefits to which the tribe and its members are entitled.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

25 USC 1300h-1.

For purposes of this Act—

(1) the term "Band" means the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians;

(2) the term "member" means those individuals eligible for enrollment under section 5 in the Band; and

(3) the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 4. FEDERAL TRUST RELATIONSHIP.

25 USC 1300h-2.

(a) The Federal recognition of the Band and the trust relationship between the United States and the Band is hereby reaffirmed. The Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as amended, and all laws and rules of law of the United States of general application to Indians,

Indian tribes, or Indian reservations which are not inconsistent with this Act shall apply to the members of the Band, and the reservation. The Band is hereby recognized as an independent tribal entity, separate from the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community or any other tribe.

(b) The Band and its members are eligible for all special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

Records.

25 USC 1300h-3.

**SEC. 5. ESTABLISHMENT OF A BAND ROLL.**

(a) Within six months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Band shall submit to the Secretary, for approval, its base membership roll which shall include only individuals who are not members of any other federally recognized Indian tribe or who have relinquished membership in such tribe and who are eligible for membership under subsection (b).

(b) An individual is eligible for inclusion on the base membership roll in the Band if that individual—

(1) is on the tribal membership roll as maintained by the Band prior to the date of enactment of this Act and is on file with the Bureau of Indian Affairs as of the date of enactment of this Act; or

(2) is at least one-quarter Chippewa Indian blood and is a person or a descendant of a person who was listed, or could have been listed, on any of the census of the Lac Vieux Desert Band prepared by the Superintendent of the MacKinaw Agency prior to 1928 or by the Superintendent of the Great Lakes agency on or prior to 1940.

(c) The Band shall ensure that the roll, once completed and approved, is maintained and kept current.

(d)(1) Notwithstanding paragraph (b) of section 6 and except as provided in paragraph (2), future membership in the tribe shall be limited to descendants of individuals whose names appear on the base roll and who have at least one-quarter Chippewa blood quantum.

(2) The Band may modify such quarter Chippewa blood quantum requirement if such modification is adopted in the tribal election as prescribed under paragraph (a) of section 6 or in a referendum by a majority of the voters and approved by the Secretary of the Interior. The Secretary shall approve such new membership requirements once adopted by the tribal voters unless he finds that the proposed amendment is contrary to Federal law.

25 USC 1300h-4.

**SEC. 6. ORGANIZATION OF TRIBE; CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNING BODY.**

(a) Within one year following the enactment of this Act, the Band's governing body shall propose a governing document, and the Secretary shall conduct, pursuant to section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), and in accordance with applicable rules and regulations, an election as to the adoption of the proposed document. The Secretary shall approve the governing document if approved by a majority of the tribal voters unless the Secretary finds that the proposed constitution, or any provision thereof, is contrary to Federal law.

(b) Until the Band adopts and the Secretary approves a governing document, the Band's interim governing document shall be the Lac Vieux Desert Constitution which bears the approval date of June 18, 1986, and a copy of which is in the files of the Division of Tribal

Government Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, District of Columbia.

(c) Until the Band elects a new governing body pursuant to the new governing document, the Band's governing body shall consist of its current Band officers, elected at the Band's election held on November 5, 1986, or any new officers selected under election procedures of the interim governing document identified under subsection (b) of this section.

**SEC. 7. LAND ACQUISITION; ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERAL RESERVATION.**

Michigan.  
25 USC 1300h-5.

(a) The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community is hereby authorized to convey, by deed to the United States in trust for the Band, all lands located in Gogebic County, Michigan, which, on the date of enactment of this Act, are held in trust by the United States for the benefit of said community. The Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to approve and accept the deed with the expressed consent of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and the Band. Upon acceptance of the deed, all lands described therein shall constitute the reservation of the Band.

(b) The Secretary may place such other land into trust for the benefit of the Band pursuant to the provisions of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 84), or any other Act: *Provided*, That any such land placed in trust which is located in Gogebic County, shall become part of the reservation.

**SEC. 8. DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.**

25 USC 1300h-6.

(a) For the purpose of proceeding with the per capita distribution of the funds appropriated and subsequently apportioned to the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community in satisfaction of judgments awarded the Lake Superior Chippewas and Mississippi Chippewas in dockets numbered 18-C, 18-T, 18-S, and 18-U of the Indian Claims Commission, the Secretary of the Interior shall accept the tribe's certification of enrolled membership.

(b) Individuals who are or become members of the Lac Vieux Desert Band and who are eligible for per capita shares out of funds apportioned to the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community or Sokaogan Chippewa Community shall continue to be eligible for such per capita payments notwithstanding their relinquishment of their enrollment in either community pursuant to section 5 of this Act.

**SEC. 9. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.**

25 USC 1300h-7.

Notwithstanding any other law or provision in the constitution of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, the Secretary shall call an election within 90 days of receipt of a resolution of the Keweenaw Bay Tribal Council requesting an election for the purpose of amending provisions of the constitution of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community.

**SEC. 10. COMPLIANCE WITH BUDGET ACT.**

25 USC 1300h-8.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, any spending authority provided under this Act shall be effective for any fiscal

year only to such extent or in such amounts as are provided in advance in appropriation Acts. For purposes of this Act, the term "spending authority" has the meaning provided in section 401(c)(2) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, as amended.

Approved September 8, 1988.

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**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 3679 (S. 1735):**

**HOUSE REPORTS:** No. 100-584 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).

**SENATE REPORTS:** No. 100-414 accompanying S. 1735 (Select Comm. on Indian Affairs).

**CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 134 (1988):**

May 2, considered and passed House.

July 14, S. 1735 considered and passed Senate; proceedings vacated and H.R. 3679, amended, passed in lieu.

Aug. 10, House concurred in Senate amendment.