

103D CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 1357

AN ACT

To reaffirm and clarify the Federal relationships of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians as distinct federally recognized Indian tribes, and for other purposes.

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To reaffirm and clarify the Federal relationships of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians as distinct federally recognized 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Little Traverse Bay
5 Bands of Odawa Indians and the Little River Band of Ot-
6 tawa Indians Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa
4 Indians and the Little River Band of Ottawa Indi-
5 ans are descendants of, and political successors to,
6 signatories of the 1836 Treaty of Washington and
7 the 1855 Treaty of Detroit.

8 (2) The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and
9 Chippewa Indians, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of
10 Chippewa Indians, and the Bay Mills Band of Chip-
11 pewa Indians, whose members are also descendants
12 of the signatories to the 1836 Treaty of Washington
13 and the 1855 Treaty of Detroit, have been recog-
14 nized by the Federal Government as distinct Indian
15 tribes.

16 (3) The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa
17 Indians consists of at least 1,000 eligible members
18 who continue to reside close to their ancestral home-
19 land as recognized in the Little Traverse Reserva-
20 tion in the 1836 Treaty of Washington and 1855
21 Treaty of Detroit, which area is now known as
22 Emmet and Charlevoix Counties, Michigan.

23 (4) The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
24 consists of at least 500 eligible members who con-
25 tinue to reside close to their ancestral homeland as
26 recognized in the Manistee Reservation in the 1836

1 Treaty of Washington and reservation in the 1855
2 Treaty of Detroit, which area is now known as
3 Manistee and Mason Counties, Michigan.

4 (5) The Bands filed for reorganization of their
5 existing tribal governments in 1935 under the Act of
6 June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 461 et seq.; commonly re-
7 ferred to as the “Indian Reorganization Act”). Fed-
8 eral agents who visited the Bands, including Com-
9 missioner of Indian Affairs, John Collier, attested to
10 the continued social and political existence of the
11 Bands and concluded that the Bands were eligible
12 for reorganization. Due to a lack of Federal appro-
13 priations to implement the provisions of such Act,
14 the Bands were denied the opportunity to reorga-
15 nize.

16 (6) In spite of such denial, the Bands continued
17 their political and social existence with viable tribal
18 governments. The Bands, along with other Michigan
19 Odawa/Ottawa groups, including the tribes described
20 in paragraph (2), formed the Northern Michigan Ot-
21 tawa Association in 1948. The Association subse-
22 quently pursued a successful land claim with the In-
23 dian Claims Commission.

24 (7) Between 1948 and 1975, the Bands carried
25 out many of their governmental functions through

1 the Northern Michigan Ottawa Association, while re-
2 taining individual Band control over local decisions.

3 (8) In 1975, the Northern Michigan Ottawa As-
4 sociation petitioned under the Act of June 18, 1934
5 (25 U.S.C. 461 et seq.; commonly referred to as the
6 “Indian Reorganization Act”), to form a government
7 on behalf of the Bands. Again in spite of the Bands’
8 eligibility, the Bureau of Indian Affairs failed to act
9 on their request.

10 (9) The United States Government, the govern-
11 ment of the State of Michigan, and local govern-
12 ments have had continuous dealings with the recog-
13 nized political leaders of the Bands from 1836 to the
14 present.

15 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

16 For purposes of this Act—

17 (1) the term “Bands” means the Little Tra-
18 verse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and the Little
19 River Band of Ottawa Indians;

20 (2) the term “member” means those individuals
21 enrolled in the Bands pursuant to section 7; and

22 (3) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
23 of the Interior.

1 **SEC. 4. FEDERAL RECOGNITION.**

2 (a) FEDERAL RECOGNITION.—Federal recognition of
3 the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and the
4 Little River Band of Ottawa Indians is hereby reaffirmed.
5 All laws and regulations of the United States of general
6 application to Indians or nations, tribes, or bands of Indi-
7 ans, including the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 461
8 et seq.; commonly referred to as the “Indian Reorganiza-
9 tion Act”), which are not inconsistent with any specific
10 provision of this Act shall be applicable to the Bands and
11 their members.

12 (b) FEDERAL SERVICES AND BENEFITS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Bands and their mem-
14 bers shall be eligible for all services and benefits pro-
15 vided by the Federal Government to Indians because
16 of their status as federally recognized Indians, and
17 notwithstanding any other provision of law, such
18 services and benefits shall be provided after the date
19 of the enactment of this Act to the Bands and their
20 members without regard to the existence of a res-
21 ervation or the location of the residence of any mem-
22 ber on or near any Indian reservation.

23 (2) SERVICE AREAS.—

24 (A) LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS.—For
25 purposes of the delivery of Federal services to
26 the enrolled members of the Little Traverse

1 Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, the area of the
2 State of Michigan within 70 miles of the bound-
3 aries of the reservations for the Little Traverse
4 Bay Bands as set out in Article I, paragraphs
5 “third” and “fourth” of the Treaty of 1855, 11
6 Stat. 621, shall be deemed to be within or near
7 a reservation, notwithstanding the establish-
8 ment of a reservation for the tribe after the
9 date of the enactment of this Act. Services may
10 be provided to members outside the named
11 service area unless prohibited by law or pro-
12 gram regulations.

13 (B) LITTLE RIVER BAND.—For purposes
14 of the delivery of Federal services to enrolled
15 members of the Little River Band of Ottawa
16 Indians, the Counties of Manistee, Mason, Wex-
17 ford and Lake, in the State of Michigan, shall
18 be deemed to be within or near a reservation,
19 notwithstanding the establishment of a reserva-
20 tion for the tribe after the date of the enact-
21 ment of this Act. Services may be provided to
22 members outside the named Counties unless
23 prohibited by law or program regulations.

1 **SEC. 5. REAFFIRMATION OF RIGHTS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—All rights and privileges of the
3 Bands, and their members thereof, which may have been
4 abrogated or diminished before the date of the enactment
5 of this Act are hereby reaffirmed.

6 (b) EXISTING RIGHTS OF TRIBE.—Nothing in this
7 Act shall be construed to diminish any right or privilege
8 of the Bands, or of their members, that existed prior to
9 the date of enactment of this Act. Except as otherwise
10 specifically provided in any other provision of this Act,
11 nothing in this Act shall be construed as altering or affect-
12 ing any legal or equitable claim the Bands might have to
13 enforce any right or privilege reserved by or granted to
14 the Bands which were wrongfully denied to or taken from
15 the Bands prior to the enactment of this Act.

16 **SEC. 6. TRANSFER OF LAND FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE**
17 **BANDS.**

18 (a) LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS.—The Secretary
19 shall acquire real property in Emmet and Charlevoix
20 Counties for the benefit of the Little Traverse Bay Bands.
21 The Secretary shall also accept any real property located
22 in those Counties for the benefit of the Little Traverse
23 Bay Bands if conveyed or otherwise transferred to the
24 Secretary, if at the time of such acceptance, there are no
25 adverse legal claims on such property including outstand-
26 ing liens, mortgages or taxes owed.

1 (b) LITTLE RIVER BAND.—The Secretary shall ac-
2 quire real property in Manistee and Mason Counties for
3 the benefit of the Little River Band. The Secretary shall
4 also accept any real property located in those Counties for
5 the benefit of the Little River Band if conveyed or other-
6 wise transferred to the Secretary, if at the time of such
7 acceptance, there are no adverse legal claims on such
8 property including outstanding liens, mortgages or taxes
9 owed.

10 (c) ADDITIONAL LANDS.—The Secretary may accept
11 any additional acreage in each of the Bands' service area
12 specified by section 4(b) of this Act pursuant to his au-
13 thority under the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 461
14 et seq.; commonly referred to as the "Indian Reorganiza-
15 tion Act").

16 (d) RESERVATION.—Subject to the conditions im-
17 posed by this section, the land acquired by or transferred
18 to the Secretary under or pursuant to this section shall
19 be taken in the name of the United States in trust for
20 the Bands and shall be a part of the respective Bands'
21 reservation.

22 **SEC. 7. MEMBERSHIP.**

23 Not later than 18 months after the date of the enact-
24 ment of this Act, the Bands shall submit to the Secretary
25 membership rolls consisting of all individuals currently en-

1 rolled for membership in such Bands. The qualifications
2 for inclusion on the membership rolls of the Bands shall
3 be determined by the membership clauses in such Bands'
4 respective governing documents, in consultation with the
5 Secretary. Upon completion of the rolls, the Secretary
6 shall immediately publish notice of such in the Federal
7 Register. The Bands shall ensure that such rolls are main-
8 tained and kept current.

9 **SEC. 8. CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNING BODY.**

10 (a) CONSTITUTION.—

11 (1) ADOPTION.—Not later than 24 months
12 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
13 retary shall conduct, by secret ballot, elections for
14 the purposes of adopting new constitutions for the
15 Bands. The elections shall be held according to the
16 procedures applicable to elections under section 16
17 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 476; com-
18 monly referred to as the “Indian Reorganization
19 Act”).

20 (2) INTERIM GOVERNING DOCUMENTS.—Until
21 such time as new constitutions are adopted under
22 paragraph (1), the governing documents in effect on
23 the date of the enactment of this Act shall be the
24 interim governing documents for the Bands.

25 (b) OFFICIALS.—

1 (1) ELECTION.—Not later than 6 months after
2 the Bands adopt constitutions and bylaws pursuant
3 to subsection (a), the Bands shall conduct elections
4 by secret ballot for the purpose of electing officials
5 for the Bands as provided in the Bands' respective
6 governing constitutions. The elections shall be con-
7 ducted according to the procedures described in the
8 Bands' constitutions and bylaws.

9 (2) INTERIM GOVERNMENTS.—Until such time
10 as the Bands elect new officials pursuant to para-
11 graph (1), the Bands' governing bodies shall be
12 those governing bodies in place on the date of the
13 enactment of this Act, or any new governing bodies
14 selected under the election procedures specified in
15 the respective interim governing documents of the
16 Bands.

Passed the Senate May 25 (legislative day, May 16),
1994.

Attest:

Secretary.

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