

Union Calendar No. 720

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 6489

[Report No. 118–883]

To amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Village Corporations shall not be required to convey land in trust to the State of Alaska for the establishment of Municipal Corporations, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 28, 2023

Mrs. PELTOLA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Natural Resources

DECEMBER 16, 2024

Additional sponsors: Mr. ZINKE and Mr. STAUBER

DECEMBER 16, 2024

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union
and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Village Corporations shall not be required to convey land in trust to the State of Alaska for the establishment of Municipal Corporations, 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 “Alaska Native Village
 5 Municipal Lands Restoration Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. REVERSION OF CERTAIN LAND CONVEYED IN**
 7 **TRUST TO THE STATE OF ALASKA.**

8 Section 14(c) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement
 9 Act (43 U.S.C. 1613(c)) is amended—

10 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through
 11 (5) as subparagraphs (A) through (E), respectively,
 12 and indenting appropriately;

13 (2) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)
 14 (as so redesignated), by striking “(c) Each patent”
 15 and inserting the following:

16 “(c) CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN LAND BY VILLAGE
 17 CORPORATION.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each patent”;

19 (3) in paragraph (1) (as so designated), in the
 20 undesignated matter following subparagraph (E) (as
 21 so redesignated), in the first sentence—

22 (A) by striking “section 14(c) of this Act”
 23 and inserting “this subsection”; and

24 (B) by striking “There is authorized” and
 25 inserting the following:

1 “(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—There are author-
3 ized”;

4 (4) in paragraph (2)(A) (as so redesignated), in
5 the second sentence, by striking “The Secretary”
6 and inserting the following:

7 “(B) FORM OF FUNDING.—The Sec-
8 retary”; and

9 (5) in paragraph (1) (as so designated)—

10 (A) in each of subparagraphs (A) and (B)
11 (as so redesignated)—

12 (i) by striking “the” the first place it
13 appears and inserting “The”; and

14 (ii) by striking the semicolon at the
15 end and inserting a period;

16 (B) in subparagraph (D) (as so redesign-
17 ated), by striking “the” the first place it ap-
18 pears and inserting “The”;

19 (C) by striking “existed as of” in subpara-
20 graph (D) (as so redesignated) and all that fol-
21 lows through “for” in subparagraph (E) (as so
22 redesignated) and inserting the following: “ex-
23 isted as of December 18, 1971.

24 “(E) For”; and

1 (D) in subparagraph (C) (as so redesignated)—
 2

3 (i) by striking the semicolon at the
 4 end and inserting a period;

5 (ii) by striking “in trust: *Provided,*
 6 *however,* That the word” and all that fol-
 7 lows through “sentence,” and inserting the
 8 following: “in trust.

9 “(II) DEFINITION OF SALE.—

10 For purposes of subclause (I), the
 11 term ‘sale’”;

12 (iii) by striking “one thousand two
 13 hundred and eighty acres: *Provided further,*
 14 That any net” and inserting the following:
 15 “1,280 acres.

16 “(iii) NET REVENUES.—

17 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Any net”;

18 (iv) by striking “community needs:
 19 *Provided,* That the” and inserting the fol-
 20 lowing: “community needs.

21 “(ii) MINIMUM ACREAGE.—The”;

22 (v) by striking “(C) the Village Cor-
 23 poration” and inserting the following:

24 “(C) CONVEYANCE TO MUNICIPAL COR-
 25 PORATION OR THE STATE IN TRUST.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Village Cor-
2 poration”; and

3 (vi) by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(iv) CASES IN WHICH CONVEYANCE
6 SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED.—

7 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Notwith-
8 standing any other provision of this
9 subparagraph, if a Village Corpora-
10 tion, prior to the date of enactment of
11 the Alaska Native Village Municipal
12 Lands Restoration Act of 2023, con-
13 veyed to the State in trust all or a
14 portion of the acreage of land re-
15 quired to be conveyed under this sub-
16 paragraph for the establishment of a
17 Municipal Corporation in the future,
18 and a Municipal Corporation has not
19 been established as of that date of en-
20 actment, on formal resolution by the
21 Village Corporation and the residents
22 of the Native village requesting dis-
23 solution of the trust, the trust shall be
24 dissolved and title to the land shall re-

1 vert to the Village Corporation, sub-
2 ject to subclause (III).

3 “(II) ADDITIONAL LAND.—Not-
4 withstanding any other provision of
5 this subparagraph, as of the date of
6 enactment of the Alaska Native Vil-
7 lage Municipal Lands Restoration Act
8 of 2023, a Village Corporation shall
9 not be required to convey any addi-
10 tional land in trust under this sub-
11 paragraph for the establishment of a
12 Municipal Corporation in the future.

13 “(III) REQUIREMENTS.—In ac-
14 cordance with subsection (g)—

15 “(aa) the reversion of land
16 to a Village Corporation pursuant
17 to subclause (I) shall be subject
18 to—

19 “(AA) valid existing
20 rights created by the appli-
21 cable trust; and

22 “(BB) any existing
23 easements, rights-of-way
24 necessary for public roadway
25 access, or rights-of-way for

1 access of holders of valid ex-
2 isting rights; and

3 “(bb) the Village Corpora-
4 tion shall assume the obligations
5 of the applicable trust with re-
6 spect to any lease or other use
7 agreement applicable to the land
8 on reversion of the land to the
9 Village Corporation pursuant to
10 subclause (I).”.

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