

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2615

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 27, 2023

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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”.

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

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

5 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through
 6 (5) as subparagraphs (A) through (E), respectively,
 7 and indenting appropriately;

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

11 “(c) CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN LAND BY VILLAGE
 12 CORPORATION.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each patent”;

14 (3) in paragraph (1) (as so designated), in the
 15 undesignated matter following subparagraph (E) (as
 16 so redesignated), in the first sentence—

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

19 (B) by striking “There is authorized” and
 20 inserting the following:

21 “(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—There are author-
 23 ized”;

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

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

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

4 (A) in each of subparagraphs (A) and (B)
5 (as so redesignated)—

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

8 (ii) by striking the semicolon at the
9 end and inserting a period;

10 (B) in subparagraph (D) (as so redesi-
11 gnated), by striking “the” the first place it ap-
12 pears and inserting “The”;

13 (C) by striking “existed as of” in subpara-
14 graph (D) (as so redesignated) and all that fol-
15 lows through “for” in subparagraph (E) (as so
16 redesignated) and inserting the following: “ex-
17 isted as of December 18, 1971.

18 “(E) For”; and

19 (D) in subparagraph (C) (as so redesi-
20 gnated)—

21 (i) by striking the semicolon at the
22 end and inserting a period;

23 (ii) by striking “in trust: *Provided,*
24 *however,* That the word” and all that fol-

1 lows through “sentence,” and inserting the
 2 following: “in trust.

3 “(II) DEFINITION OF SALE.—

4 For purposes of subclause (I), the
 5 term ‘sale’”;

6 (iii) by striking “one thousand two
 7 hundred and eighty acres: *Provided further,*
 8 That any net” and inserting the following:
 9 “1,280 acres.

10 “(iii) NET REVENUES.—

11 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Any net”;

12 (iv) by striking “community needs:
 13 *Provided, That the*” and inserting the fol-
 14 lowing: “community needs.

15 “(ii) MINIMUM ACREAGE.—The”;

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

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

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

22 (vi) by adding at the end the fol-
 23 lowing:

24 “(iv) CASES IN WHICH CONVEYANCE
 25 SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED.—

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

21 “(II) ADDITIONAL LAND.—Not-
22 withstanding any other provision of
23 this subparagraph, as of the date of
24 enactment of the Alaska Native Vil-
25 lage Municipal Lands Restoration Act

1 of 2023, a Village Corporation shall
2 not be required to convey any addi-
3 tional land in trust under this sub-
4 paragraph for the establishment of a
5 Municipal Corporation in the future.

6 “(III) REQUIREMENTS.—In ac-
7 cordance with subsection (g)—

8 “(aa) the reversion of land
9 to a Village Corporation pursuant
10 to subclause (I) shall be subject
11 to—

12 “(AA) valid existing
13 rights created by the appli-
14 cable trust; and

15 “(BB) any existing
16 easements, rights-of-way
17 necessary for public roadway
18 access, or rights-of-way for
19 access of holders of valid ex-
20 isting rights; and

21 “(bb) the Village Corpora-
22 tion shall assume the obligations
23 of the applicable trust with re-
24 spect to any lease or other use
25 agreement applicable to the land

1 on reversion of the land to the
2 Village Corporation pursuant to
3 subelause (I).”

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