



H.R. 5680 – A bill to amend certain laws relating to Native Americans, and for other purposes

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 5680 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) on April 2, 2008. The House Committee on Natural Resources ordered the bill to be reported, as amended, by unanimous consent on May 14, 2008.

H.R. 5680 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on June 18, 2008.

SUMMARY

Colorado River Indian Tribes Disbursements:

H.R. 5680 authorizes revenues collected from power operations taking place on the reservation of the Colorado River Indian Tribes to be used to fund the Office of the Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation Energy Development. Any disbursements made must be between \$200,000 and \$350,000 annually, and must not exceed the amount required to carry out the operations of the Office.

Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Michigan Real Property:

The bill allows the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Michigan to transfer or lease any part of the Tribe's real property that is not held in trust by the United States, notwithstanding any other provision of the law. The Tribe is not authorized to transfer or lease any lands that are held in trust by the United States.

Morongo Band of Mission Indians Lands:

H.R. 5680 provides for lands held in trust for the Morongo Band of Mission Indians to be leased for a period of 50 years or less, and a term of ten years or less for grazing purposes.

Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians Lands:

Lands held in trust for the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians may be leased for a term not to exceed 99 years.

Amending the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act:

The legislation amends the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act so that Settlement Common Stock issued to a Native shall be cancelled upon the death of such Native, the stock carries limited or no voting rights, and that such stock cannot be transferred by gift.

BACKGROUND

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (P.L. 92-203) of 1971 was the largest land claims settlement in American history. The Act terminated Alaska Natives' lands claims in Alaska and in return gave Native Alaskans shares in newly created "regional corporations" which disburse oil, mineral and timber revenues.

Founded in 1824, the Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) administers over 55 million acres of land held in trust by the United States for American Indians, Indian tribes, and Alaska Natives. The BIA leases assets on these lands, protects water and land rights, as well as maintains infrastructure systems. Currently, the United States recognizes 561 tribal governments.

[Bureau of Indian Affairs website](#)



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

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COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that implementing H.R. 5680 “would have no significant impact on the federal budget.” [Full CBO Cost Estimate](#)

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