

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the presentation of this draft bill from the standpoint of the Administration's program.
Sincerely yours,

STEWART L. UDALL,
Secretary of the Interior.

A BILL To settle the land claims of Alaska Natives, and for other purposes

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 3 of the Act of May 25, 1926 (44 Stat. 629; 48 U.S.C. 355(c)), is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 3 (a) The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to grant in trust, subject to valid existing rights, to each tribe, band, clan, village, community, or group of Natives in Alaska, hereinafter referred to as a group of Natives, upon his own initiative and without application, title to the village site or sites now occupied by such group of Natives if not otherwise patented and if not withdrawn for purposes unrelated to Native use or the administration of Native affairs. The Secretary is further authorized, subject to valid existing rights, to grant title to such additional lands within the environs of such site or sites as would contribute significantly, in the judgment of the Secretary, to the livelihood of the community, taking into account such factors as population, economic resources of the group, traditional way of life, and the nature and value of the land proposed to be granted. Such grant may include a grant of title, subject to valid existing rights, to noncontiguous lands being used and occupied by such Natives for burial grounds, airfields, water supply, hunting and fishing camps, and dock or boat-launching sites that are not withdrawn for other purposes: *Provided*, That the provisions of this sentence and the provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall not apply to groups of Natives who are beneficiaries of the judgment recovered by the Tlingit and Haida Indians in Court of Claims Docket No. 47,900. The Secretary is authorized to make any grant subject to easements for public use or benefit. In no case may the grants of land to a single grantee under this section exceed fifty thousand acres.

"(b) In the case of Native villages within whose environs there are not sufficient additional lands in Federal ownership to permit the Secretary to make the grant of additional lands contemplated by subsection (a), the Secretary may convey other lands in lieu thereof but subject to the same conditions and limitations that apply to conveyances of land within the environs of a village.

"(c) For the purposes of this Act the term 'Native' means an Alaskan Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut of at least one-fourth degree Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut blood.

"(d) Beneficiaries of the grants made pursuant to subsection (a) shall be the Natives who comprised the members of the grantee upon the date of the grant, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior, together with any descendants of such members of one-fourth degree of Native blood. The interest of a beneficiary shall not be transferable in any manner, either during his lifetime or upon his death. Whenever a distribution of capital or income of the trust is made to the beneficiaries, the finding of the Secretary as to the qualified recipients shall be final and conclusive.

"(e) Title to land granted pursuant to subsection (a) may be held by the United States in trust, acting through the Secretary of the Interior as trustee, or it may be conveyed by the Secretary of the Interior to a trustee selected by a group of Natives by a majority vote of the members nineteen years of age and older who reside in or near the village. Any trustee selected by the Natives shall be subject to approval by the Secretary. In the event a group of Natives does not select a trustee approved by the Secretary within one year from the date the Secretary notifies said group of his readiness to convey title, the Secretary may convey title to the State of Alaska, with its consent, as trustee, or to any other trustee selected by the Secretary. The term of a trust established pursuant to this section shall not exceed twenty-five years, and when the trust expires it shall be liquidated in accordance with the terms of the trust instrument, or as prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior if there is no trust instrument. Prior to conveyance of a site to a trustee the Secretary shall have its exterior boundaries surveyed. This requirement for survey shall be satisfied without continuous marking of the line, but by establishment of monuments along all the boundaries, except meander courses, by electronic measurement or other means, at intervals of not more than six thousand feet, or by extension of the rectangular system of surveys over the areas claimed. Claims or selections of