

112<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 1272

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## AN ACT

To provide for the use and distribution of the funds awarded to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, et al., by the United States Court of Federal Claims in Docket Numbers 19 and 188, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Minnesota Chippewa  
3 Tribe Judgment Fund Distribution Act of 2012”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) On January 22, 1948, the Minnesota Chip-  
7 pewa Tribe, representing all Chippewa bands in Min-  
8 nesota except the Red Lake Band, filed a claim be-  
9 fore the Indian Claims Commission in Docket No.  
10 19 for an accounting of all funds received and ex-  
11 pended pursuant to the Act of January 14, 1889, 25  
12 Stat. 642, and amendatory acts (hereinafter referred  
13 to as the Nelson Act).

14 (2) On August 2, 1951, the Minnesota Chip-  
15 pewa Tribe, representing all Chippewa bands in Min-  
16 nesota except the Red Lake Band, filed a number of  
17 claims before the Indian Claims Commission in  
18 Docket No. 188 for an accounting of the Govern-  
19 ment’s obligation to each of the member bands of  
20 the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe under various stat-  
21 utes and treaties that are not covered by the Nelson  
22 Act of January 14, 1889.

23 (3) On May 17, 1999, a Joint Motion for Find-  
24 ings in Aid of Settlement of the claims in Docket  
25 No. 19 and 188 was filed before the Court.

1           (4) The terms of the settlement were approved  
2           by the Court and the final judgment was entered on  
3           May 26, 1999.

4           (5) On June 22, 1999, \$20,000,000 was trans-  
5           ferred to the Department of the Interior and depos-  
6           ited into a trust fund account established for the  
7           beneficiaries of the funds awarded in Docket No. 19  
8           and 188.

9           (6) Pursuant to the Indian Tribal Judgment  
10          Funds Use or Distribution Act (25 U.S.C. 1401 et  
11          seq.), Congress must act to authorize the use or dis-  
12          tribution of the judgment funds.

13          (7) On October 1, 2009, the Minnesota Chip-  
14          pewa Tribal Executive Committee passed Resolution  
15          146–09, approving a plan to distribute the judgment  
16          funds and requesting that the United States Con-  
17          gress act to distribute the judgment funds in the  
18          manner described by the plan.

19 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

20          For the purpose of this Act:

21           (1) **AVAILABLE FUNDS.**—The term “available  
22          funds” means the funds awarded to the Minnesota  
23          Chippewa Tribe and interest earned and received on  
24          those funds, less the funds used for payments au-  
25          thorized under section 4.

1           (2) BANDS.—The term “Bands” means the  
2 Bois Forte Band, Fond du Lac Band, Grand Por-  
3 tage Band, Leech Lake Band, Mille Lacs Band, and  
4 White Earth Band.

5           (3) JUDGMENT FUNDS.—The term “judgment  
6 funds” means the funds awarded on May 26, 1999,  
7 to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe by the Court of  
8 Federal Claims in Docket No. 19 and 188.

9           (4) MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE.—The term  
10 “Minnesota Chippewa Tribe” means the Minnesota  
11 Chippewa Tribe, Minnesota, composed of the Bois  
12 Forte Band, Fond du Lac Band, Grand Portage  
13 Band, Leech Lake Band, Mille Lacs Band, and  
14 White Earth Band. It does not include Red Lake  
15 Band of Chippewa Indians, Minnesota.

16           (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
17 the Secretary of the Interior.

18 **SEC. 4. LOAN REIMBURSEMENTS TO MINNESOTA CHIP-**  
19 **PEWA TRIBE.**

20           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to re-  
21 imburse the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe the amount of  
22 funds, plus interest earned to the date of reimbursement,  
23 that the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe contributed for pay-  
24 ment of attorneys’ fees and litigation expenses associated  
25 with the litigation of Docket No. 19 and 188 before the

1 U.S. Court of Federal Claims and the distribution of judg-  
2 ment funds.

3 (b) CLAIMS.—The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe’s claim  
4 for reimbursement of funds expended shall be—

5 (1) presented to the Secretary not later than 90  
6 days after the date of enactment of this Act;

7 (2) certified by the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe  
8 as being unreimbursed to the Minnesota Chippewa  
9 Tribe from other funding sources;

10 (3) paid with interest calculated at the rate of  
11 6.0 percent per annum, simple interest, from the  
12 date the funds were expended to the date the funds  
13 are reimbursed to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe;  
14 and

15 (4) paid from the judgment funds prior to the  
16 division of the funds under section 5.

17 **SEC. 5. DIVISION OF JUDGMENT FUNDS.**

18 (a) MEMBERSHIP ROLLS.—Not later than 90 days  
19 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Minnesota  
20 Chippewa Tribe shall submit to the Secretary updated  
21 membership rolls for each Band, which shall include all  
22 enrolled members the date of the enactment of this Act.

23 (b) DIVISIONS.—After all funds have been reim-  
24 bursed under section 4, and the membership rolls have  
25 been updated under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

1           (1) set aside for each Band a portion of the  
2           available judgment funds equivalent to \$300 for  
3           each member enrolled within each Band; and

4           (2) after the funds are set aside in accordance  
5           with paragraph (1), divide 100 percent of the re-  
6           maining funds into equal shares for each Band.

7           (c) SEPARATE ACCOUNTS.—The Secretary shall—

8           (1) deposit all funds described in subsection  
9           (b)(1) into a “Per Capita” account for each Band;  
10          and

11          (2) deposit all funds described in subsection  
12          (b)(2) into an “Equal Shares” account for each  
13          Band.

14          (d) WITHDRAWAL OF FUNDS.—After the Secretary  
15          deposits the available funds into the accounts described  
16          in subsection (c), a Band may withdraw all or part of the  
17          monies in its account.

18          (e) DISBURSEMENT OF PER CAPITA PAYMENTS.—All  
19          funds described in subsection (b)(1) shall be used by each  
20          Band only for the purposes of distributing one \$300 pay-  
21          ment to each individual member of the Band. Each Band  
22          may—

23                (1) distribute the \$300 payment to the parents  
24                or legal guardians on behalf of each dependent Band

1 member instead of distributing such \$300 payment  
2 to the dependent Band member; or

3 (2) deposit into a trust account the \$300 pay-  
4 ment to each dependent Band member for the ben-  
5 efit of such dependent Band member, to be distrib-  
6 uted under the terms of such trust.

7 (f) DISTRIBUTION OF UNCLAIMED PAYMENTS.—One  
8 year after the funds described in subsection (b)(1) are  
9 made available to the Bands, all unclaimed payments de-  
10 scribed in subsection (e) shall be returned to the Sec-  
11 retary, who shall divide these funds into equal shares for  
12 each Band, and deposit the divided shares into the ac-  
13 counts described in subsection (c)(2) for the use of each  
14 Band.

15 (g) LIABILITY.—If a Band exercises the right to  
16 withdraw monies from its accounts, the Secretary shall not  
17 retain liability for the expenditure or investment of the  
18 monies after each withdrawal.

19 **SEC. 6. GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

20 (a) PREVIOUS OBLIGATIONS.—Funds disbursed  
21 under this Act shall not be liable for the payment of pre-  
22 viously contracted obligations of any recipient as provided  
23 in Public Law 98–64 (25 U.S.C. 117b(a)).

24 (b) INDIAN JUDGMENT FUNDS DISTRIBUTION  
25 ACT.—All funds distributed under this Act are subject to

- 1 the provisions in the Indian Judgment Funds Distribution
- 2 Act (25 U.S.C. 1407).

Passed the House of Representatives June 18, 2012.

Attest:

*Clerk.*





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