

Introduced: 3/6/68
Referred: Resources and
Finance

BY THE RULES COMMITTEE
BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 672

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act to provide for state contribution and action
7 to encourage and facilitate final settlement of
8 Alaska native land claims by the federal government,
9 and providing for an effective date."

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

11 PREAMBLE

12 It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State of Alaska to
13 join with the federal government in a legislative effort to recognize,
14 validate and confirm the just land claims of Alaska natives and to pro-
15 vide a fair, speedy and equitable method for their determination, set-
16 tlement and satisfaction. It is the position of the State that in ac-
17 complishing this purpose it is in the public interest to minimize pro-
18 cedural delays, remove technical obstacles, to create a public body
19 composed of residents of Alaska with power to process, determine, and
20 expedite such claims and to perform other functions to carry out the
21 provisions of this Act. In order to facilitate and encourage a fair
22 settlement of these land claims between the Alaska natives and the federal
23 government, it is deemed in the best interest of the State to make a
24 reasonable contribution to such settlement on the part of the State,
25 by providing that certain royalties or shares of the proceeds de-
26 rived from state and federal lands be made available to native groups
27 in Alaska as compensation for relinquishment of part of their claims
28 based on aboriginal use and occupancy of lands in Alaska, and thereby
29 to settle with finality all such land claims of Alaska natives insofar

1 as the State of Alaska is concerned.

2 CHAPTER I

3 ALASKA NATIVE COMMISSION

4 Section 101. ACCEPTANCE OF FEDERAL COMMISSION. (a) If legisla-
5 tion is enacted by the United States before April 1, 1969, whereby
6 a commission is created substantially like, and which is capable of
7 performing the functions of, the Alaska Native Commission set forth
8 in this Act, the State of Alaska does hereby designate and constitute
9 such commission as the agency for carrying out the Alaska Native
10 Commission purposes and functions set forth in this Act.

11 (b) Upon the enactment before April 1, 1969, of federal
12 legislation creating such a commission, the Governor of Alaska shall
13 determine whether it is substantially like, and capable of performing
14 the functions of, the commission as otherwise set forth in this Act.
15 If the Governor so determines in the affirmative, he shall certify and
16 make public his determination, whereupon the federally created commission
17 shall become the agency to perform the functions set forth in this Act,
18 and the commission created herein by Sections 103--113, inclusive, shall
19 not come into existence, those sections of this Act then becoming inoperable.
20 If the Governor determines in the negative, then Sections 103--113, inclu-
21 sive, of this Act shall become operable immediately.

22 (c) If no legislation has been enacted by Congress by April
23 15, 1969, creating a commission to act in the matter of Alaska native
24 land claims, then Sections 103--113, inclusive, of this Act, shall become
25 operable immediately.

26 Section 102. CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING THE ACCEPTABILITY OF FEDERAL
27 COMMISSION. In making the determination under Section 101 hereof, the
28 Governor shall be guided by the following minimum standards of accept-
29 ability of a federal commission to discharge the functions set forth in this

1 Act:

- 2 (1) It must provide that the State of Alaska may vest power
3 in the Commission.
4 (2) It must provide for staggered terms of office.
5 (3) It must provide that at least a majority of its members
6 be Alaska natives as defined herein.
7 (4) The Alaska residence requirements for members of the
8 commission must be substantially the same.
9 (5) The scope of judicial review of actions and final deter-
10 minations of the commission must be at least as ample
11 as that set forth in Section 113 of this Act.
12 (6) It must be empowered to make final determinations of
13 the matters committed to it by this Act, where this Act
14 requires such final determinations.

15 Section 103. CREATION OF STATE COMMISSION. There is created and
16 established an Alaska Native Commission (hereinafter called "the commis-
17 sion") to exercise the duties and powers conferred upon it by this Act.
18 The commission shall be considered as the head of a regulatory and quasi-
19 judicial agency of the state. The commission shall consist of nine mem-
20 bers, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by a majority of the mem-
21 bers of the Legislature in joint session. At least five members shall
22 be Alaska natives as hereafter defined. Each member of the commission
23 shall have been a resident of Alaska continuously for at least five years
24 before his appointment and must remain such a resident during his term
25 of office. In appointing members of the commission due regard shall be
26 given to obtaining fair geographic and ethnic representation.

27 Section 104. TERMS OF OFFICE. The members initially appointed
28 by the Governor shall be given individual terms of office whereby two
29 members are given two, three, and four year terms, respectively, and

1 three members are given five year terms, such terms to commence upon
2 the day that the sections of this Act concerning an Alaska State Native
3 Commission become operable. Their successors shall be appointed for
4 terms of five years by the Governor in the same manner and subject to
5 the same qualifications as the initial appointments, except that any
6 person chosen to fill a vacancy shall be appointed only for the unex-
7 pired term of the member whom he succeeds. Upon the expiration of his
8 term of office a member shall continue to serve until his successor
9 has been appointed and is qualified to take office. The members of the
10 commission shall choose a chairman from the commission's membership.

11 Any commissioner may be removed by the Governor for inefficiency,
12 neglect of duty, malfeasance in office, or engaging in conduct viola-
13 tive of any conflict of interest laws of the State of Alaska.

14 Section 105. COMPENSATION. The commissioners shall be paid com-
15 pensation in the sum of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for each day in which
16 they are engaged in the performance of their official duties. They
17 shall also be reimbursed for such expenses as have been duly authorized
18 by the commission to be incurred in the performance of their duties,
19 and for which appropriation has been made by the Legislature.

20 Section 106. NOMINATIONS. The Alaska Federation of Natives and
21 its successor statewide corporation when it comes into existence under
22 this Act shall be given the opportunity to recommend prospective
23 appointees to the commission, but the Governor is not limited thereby in
24 his exercise of appointive power.

25 Section 107. LOCATION. The commission shall have its offices and
26 hold its meetings within the State of Alaska, at a place to be determined
27 by the commission. A quorum shall consist of five members or more.

28 Section 108. EMPLOYEES AND EXPENSES. The commission may employ
29 and fix compensation of an executive director, subject to the approval

1 of the Governor as to such appointment, and may employ and fix the com-
2 pensation of such attorneys, special experts, examiners, clerks, and
3 other employees, and may incur such expenses and disburse such funds as
4 it may find necessary for the proper performance of its duties and as
5 may have been appropriated from time to time by the Legislature. The
6 commission shall be subject to examination by the Legislative Audit
7 Agency.

8 Section 109. PROCEDURE. The commission shall have power to esta-
9 blish its own rules of procedure, and the time and place of its meetings.
10 The commission shall not be subject to the Alaska Administrative Proce-
11 dure Act as to any functions of an adjudicatory nature. The commission
12 shall determine the time and place of its meetings.

13 Section 110. JURISDICTION AND POWERS. (a) The commission shall
14 have jurisdiction to determine and settle Alaska native land claims, to
15 the extent set forth, and in conformity with, other provisions of this
16 Act. It shall exercise the functions and powers set forth in this Act.
17 The commission may also accept and carry out any delegation of functions
18 to it by the Secretary of the Interior, such as the preparation of offi-
19 cial rolls of native groups, providing that the acceptance of such dele-
20 gated function does not increase the expense of commission operations
21 which would otherwise be entailed under the appropriations made by the
22 Legislature of Alaska.

23 (b) Specifically, the commission may:

- 24 (1) Determine the number and location of the groups to be
25 recognized officially by the commission;
- 26 (2) Prepare an official roster of groups of natives eligible
27 to receive the benefits granted by this Act and by the
28 laws of Alaska;
- 29 (3) Investigate all matters which are the proper subjects

1 of its action, with the power to call upon any of the
2 departments of the state government for information it
3 deems necessary to perform its duties and functions; and

4 (4) Have such other powers as may be herein or hereafter
5 provided by law.

6 (c) The commission shall give reasonable notice to the interested
7 parties before it and an opportunity to be heard before making a final
8 determination on any disputed matter.

9 Section 111. TESTIMONY OF WITNESSES. Any member of the commission
10 or employee of the commission, designated in writing by the chairman for
11 such purpose, may administer oaths and examine witnesses. The chairman of
12 the commission, or in his absence, the vice-chairman, may in the same manner
13 as a party to litigation, but without costs, apply to the Superior Court for
14 issuance of subpoenas requiring (1) the attendance and testimony of witnesses
15 and the production of all necessary books, papers, documents, correspondence,
16 and any other evidence from any place within the State of Alaska at any de-
17 signated place of hearing within Alaska, or (2) the taking of depositions
18 before any designated individual who shall be authorized to administer oaths
19 under the laws of Alaska or any other state of the United States. In the
20 case of a deposition, the testimony shall be reduced to writing by the indi-
21 vidual taking the deposition or under his direction and shall be subscribed
22 to by the deponent. In taking testimony, opportunity is to be given for
23 attendance and examination of the witness by any party who might be adversely
24 affected by the commission's actions to which the testimony of the witness
25 pertains. Witnesses subpoenaed to testify or whose depositions are taken
26 pursuant to this Act and the officers of persons taking the same, shall
27 severally be entitled to the same fees and mileage as are paid for like
28 services under the rules obtaining in the Superior Court of Alaska.

29 Section 112. FINAL DETERMINATIONS OF THE COMMISSION. The final

1 determinations of the commission in any matter which is disputed before
2 it and in any matter which will be irrevocably binding upon the persons
3 affected thereby, shall be in writing, filed with the commission, and
4 shall set forth the operative facts upon which its determination is based,
5 the reasons in support of its determination, and a definite statement of
6 the determination that is made by the commission.

7 Section 113. JUDICIAL REVIEW. The actions and final determinations
8 of the commission may be reviewed at the instance of a person adversely
9 affected by commission actions or determinations, by a petition for re-
10 view filed in the Superior Court of Alaska. In considering any such
11 petition for review the court shall be limited to considering and de-
12 ciding only the following questions:

- 13 (1) Whether any specific provisions of this Act, the Con-
14 stitution of the United States, or the Constitution of
15 Alaska has been violated.
- 16 (2) Whether the commission acted capriciously or arbitrarily.
- 17 (3) Whether there is information, published or written material,
18 evidence, or other data within the record to sustain the
19 findings, recommendations, decisions, or actions of the
20 commission as being reasonable.

21 The court may remand the matter reviewed for such further proceedings
22 as it may direct, not inconsistent with the foregoing provisions of this
23 section and with the other provisions of this Act, and may grant other
24 appropriate judicial relief.

25 CHAPTER II

26 ROYALTY

27 Section 201. RIGHT TO PROCEEDS. (a) The natives of Alaska are
28 hereby granted the right to a royalty or share of five per cent of the
29 proceeds made subject to this Act under Section 203 hereof, but only

1 if within six months after the effective date of this Act the present
2 land freeze imposed by the United States Department of the Interior (as
3 hereinafter defined) is unconditionally removed and terminated.

4 (b) In the event the said land freeze is removed in accordance
5 with (a) of this section but is subsequently reimposed, the Alaska
6 natives' right to proceeds under (a) of this section shall cease and
7 terminate.

8 (c) The phrase "land freeze" as used herein means the failure
9 or refusal on the part of the U.S. Department of the Interior to dispose
10 of public lands in Alaska under the Public Land Laws of the United States,
11 including without limitation the Alaska Statehood Act (72 Stat. 339)
12 because of the pendency of native land claims or protests; but excluding
13 any temporary withdrawal (for a period of not to exceed six months) which
14 may hereafter be made to protect priority of selection of any lands which
15 may hereafter be granted by the United States to native land claimants
16 in settlement of their claim, but not to exceed in the aggregate the
17 total acreage so granted.

18 Section 202. PROPERTY INTEREST. Except as herein otherwise ex-
19 pressly provided, the royalty or share of proceeds granted herein is
20 intended to be an irrevocable grant, and the right of Alaska natives
21 to the same vests on the day this Act becomes law, subject only to the
22 express limitations and conditions thereof.

23 Section 203. ROYALTY SOURCES. Except as herein otherwise speci-
24 fically excluded, the proceeds subject to this Act are all monetary reve-
25 nues which are received by the State, after the effective date of this
26 Act, from the sale, lease, exchange, or other disposal of lands which
27 have been or are acquired hereafter by the State under Section 6 of the
28 Alaska Statehood Act (72 Stat. 339), as amended, and of tidelands and
29 submerged lands owned by the State pursuant to the grant contained in

1 Section 6(m) of the Alaska Statehood Act, as well as all revenues re-
2 ceived as the State's share of revenues from public lands pursuant to
3 Section 28 of the Alaska Statehood Act. The right to such proceeds
4 does not apply (1) to revenues from lands the fee simple title to which
5 has been conveyed by the State to other persons before the effective date
6 of this Act; (2) to revenue from tidelands and submerged lands which are
7 or have been conveyed to others under A.S. 38.05.320; (3) lands acquired
8 or selected by the State prior to the effective date of this Act.

9 Section 204. DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEEDS. (a) The royalty or share
10 of proceeds granted under Section 201 of this Act shall be distributed
11 to three classes of recipients: (1) seventy-five per cent (75%) to in-
12 corporated native groups; (2) twenty per cent (20%) to regional native
13 corporations; and (3) five per cent (5%) to the statewide native corpora-
14 tion.

15 The apportionment of the royalty shall be based upon the number
16 of persons on the final rolls and distribution shall be made under rules
17 and regulations adopted by the commission.

18 (b) Seventy-five per cent of the total proceeds distributed under
19 subsection (a) of this section to each native corporation shall be used
20 for public works or other capital improvements or for community projects,
21 or for other public purposes to be selected by the recipient native cor-
22 porations.

23 (c) All expenditures for public works, capital improvements or
24 community projects or other public purposes shall be promptly reported
25 to the Rural Affairs Commission in the Office of the Governor of the
26 State of Alaska.

27 (d) Failure to apply proceeds or any part thereof in the manner
28 required by subsection (b) of this section shall result in forfeiture
29 of the right to receive further proceeds under Section 201 of this Act,

1 until a sum equal to the amount improperly expended has been returned
2 to the general fund.

3 Section 205. TEMPORARY TRUST. Until the commencement of corporate
4 existence of any recipient corporation, the royalty shares for such entities
5 shall be held in trust by the State. Immediately upon the commencement
6 of corporate existence of any such corporation, the State shall pay over
7 to such corporation its ascertainable share of the royalty. Like pay-
8 ments shall be made at intervals of not less than once each calendar year
9 thereafter.

10 Section 206. DEVELOPMENT OF REVENUES. The Commissioner of Natural
11 Resources shall use his best efforts to proceed with the economic develop-
12 ment of lands subject to the royalty granted herein, expeditiously and
13 without delay, to the best of his judgment as to good conservation practices
14 and the public interest. The commissioner shall annually report to the
15 Alaska Native Commission on the status of and plans for such development,
16 and the commission shall thereafter make its recommendations thereon to
17 the commissioner.

18 CHAPTER III

19 INCORPORATION OF NATIVE GROUPS

20 Section 301. CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION. Under such rules and
21 regulations as the Alaska Native Commission may prescribe, each native
22 group, regional native corporation, and statewide native corporation en-
23 titled to benefits under this Act or the Federal Alaska Native Claims
24 Act of 1968 shall incorporate under the Alaska Business Corporation Act,
25 as modified by this Act and said rules and regulations except those native
26 groups which elect to incorporate under the Indian Reorganization Act.
27 Until one hundred years after the effective date of this Act the articles
28 of incorporation and all amendments shall be subject to the approval of
29 the commission.

1 Section 302, MEMBERSHIP AND STOCK. All natives enrolled on the
2 rolls of the native group incorporated or to be incorporated under the
3 Federal Alaska Native Claims Act of 1968 shall be the initial members
4 and shareholders of the incorporated native group. Each such membership
5 shall be represented by one hundred (100) shares of the capital stock of
6 the corporation, of no par value, which shall be issued to each member.

7 Shares of stock shall be inalienable from the first holder of the
8 shares, by operation of law or otherwise, except upon his death when the
9 shares shall pass by devise or inheritance free of any claims against the
10 estate. When ownership of shares passes by devise or inheritance, such
11 shares shall be partitioned, so far as may be practicable, in whole shares
12 among those entitled thereto. The corporation shall retire by purchase
13 any shares in which fractional interests valued at less than One Hun-
14 dred Dollars (\$100.00) exist.

15 The second holder of shares of stock must be or be descended from
16 at least one of the first members of the incorporated native group, the
17 third and subsequent holders must be or be descended from at least one
18 of the first members of the regional native corporation and, after a
19 term of not less than twenty-five years, nor more than seventy-five
20 years after the effective date of this Act, as determined by the Alaska
21 Native Commission as to each incorporated native group, subsequent holders
22 thereafter need only be or be descended from at least one of the first
23 members of any native group incorporated under Section 301 until one
24 hundred (100) years after the effective date of this Act. Thereafter,
25 the stock shall be freely inalienable. Nothing in this Section shall
26 prevent the corporation from adopting any provision relating to stock
27 ownership permitted ordinary business corporations.

28 A person not entitled to hold stock may lawfully acquire stock
29 by devise or inheritance, in which event the corporation shall purchase

1 such stock at its fair value.

2 Section 303. VOTING RIGHTS. All shares shall carry voting rights
3 and cumulative voting is required. Stock held by a minor may be voted
4 by his parent or guardian.

5 Section 304. PURPOSE. The corporations may carry on any lawful
6 business permitted by the Alaska Business Corporations Act in Alaska, and,
7 with the consent of the commission, outside of Alaska. All investments
8 in securities shall be in accordance with an investment program which
9 makes provisions for skilled investment counsel.

10 To the extent permitted by its articles and by-laws, the corpora-
11 tions may make distributions from earned surplus or capital as gifts,
12 grants or loans to shareholders, descendants of the first holders of the
13 shares of the corporation and to persons of at least one-sixteenth native
14 blood who would have been eligible for membership as a first holder but
15 for the lack of sufficient blood quantum and who are enrolled by the cor-
16 poration upon a special roll, provided that no gifts or grants shall be
17 made after a period of time of not less than twenty-five (25) years nor
18 more than fifty (50) years, as determined by the Alaska Native Commission
19 for each corporation, provided further that after such period the cor-
20 poration may make charitable, educational and other donations as allowed
21 by the Alaska Business Corporations Act.

22 The regional corporations may make distributions from earned
23 surplus or capital as grants or loans to native group corporations
24 of the region of such regional corporation and to municipal corporations
25 and native villages within the region.

26 The statewide corporation may make distributions from earned sur-
27 plus or capital as grants or loans to regional corporations or native
28 group corporations.

29 Section 305. CAPITAL. The capital of the corporation shall con-

1 sist of the land conveyed to the corporation by the United States under
2 the Federal Alaska Native Claim Act of 1968, entered at its fair market
3 value upon receiving the conveyance therefore, the monies received from
4 the royalty in revenues received from the outer continental shelf, and
5 the monies received from the royalties in revenues from state lands and
6 in revenues from federal leases received by the state, granted by the
7 State Native Claim Act of 1968.

8 Section 306. CORPORATION NOT A GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITY. A
9 corporation organized under this chapter shall not be an agency or in-
10 strumentality of the State of Alaska or of the United States for any
11 purpose, and the State of Alaska and the United States shall not be
12 responsible for the corporation's actions or debts unless specifically
13 guaranteed or insured.

14 Section 307. RESIDENCE RESTRICTIONS. Residence shall not be
15 restricted, and residence or proposed residence shall not be made a
16 restriction on membership or shareholding, voting of shares, or receipt
17 of benefits from the corporation, provided that distribution of land in
18 kind for townsite lots, fish camp sites, or other aboriginal use may be
19 limited to residents, but continued residence shall not be made a con-
20 dition of any such distribution of land in kind.

21 Section 308. PROHIBITION ON PER CAPITA DISTRIBUTIONS. The cor-
22 poration shall not make any per capita distribution, provided that the
23 corporation may declare and pay dividends as any other business cor-
24 poration, and provided further that distributions as partial liquidation
25 or liquidation may be made after one hundred (100) years after the ef-
26 fective date of this Act.

27 Section 309. LIMITS ON DISTRIBUTIONS. Distributions under Section
28 304 may be made subject to the following provisions:

29 (a) The persons, if any, eligible for such distributions shall be

1 established by the articles of incorporation.

2 (b) Eligible persons may make applications for gifts, grants or
3 loans to improve their personal conditions under standards
4 proscribed by the by-laws subject to the approval of the
5 Alaska Native Commission. If the purpose of the application
6 is to allow the applicant to move himself or his family from
7 the village or from Alaska, this shall not be a bar to approval
8 of the application. Approval shall not be a bar to a subse-
9 quent application from the same applicant.

10 (c) The corporation shall not distribute more than one hundred
11 sixty (160) acres to any person, including all persons in
12 his immediate family, and shall not distribute more than
13 ten per cent (10%) of the land it receives under the Federal
14 Alaska Native Claims Act of 1968 in kind to applicants. The
15 distribution shall be under standards prescribed by the by-
16 laws subject to the approval of the Alaska Native Commission.

17 (d) The corporation shall not distribute more than twenty per
18 cent (20%) of its other capital as distributions.

19 Section 310. DISSOLUTION. During the period of one hundred (100)
20 years after the effective date of this Act, any corporation may be dis-
21 solved only if the Alaska Native Commission determines that such dis-
22 solution would be in the best interests of the shareholders, which deter-
23 mination shall be subject to veto by the Governor of Alaska or the Secre-
24 tary of the Interior.

25 Section 311. MERGER AND CONSOLIDATION. Any native group corporation
26 may merge with any other native group corporation, or, together with all
27 other native group corporations of the region, with the appropriate re-
28 gional native association or corporation. Regional native associations
29 and corporations may merge. All mergers shall be subject to the approval

1 of the Alaska Native Commission, including those occurring before the
2 effective date of this Act.

3 Section 312. TAXATION. (a) Lands held by a corporation and
4 revenues therefrom shall be taxable to the extent provided by the Federal
5 Alaska Native Claims Act of 1968.

6 (b) Royalties received by the corporation from grants made by the
7 said Act or the State Native Claims Act of 1968 shall not be taxed to the
8 corporation.

9 (c) Dividends paid to shareholders shall be taxable to the share-
10 holder.

11 (d) Distributions during the period distributions are permitted
12 shall not be taxable to the shareholders or other recipients.

13 (e) Liquidation payments shall be taxable, but only to the extent
14 of gain during the period the property was received and held by the
15 commission.

16 Section 313. RULES AND REGULATIONS. The Alaska Native Commission
17 may adopt rules and regulations to implement this chapter.

18 CHAPTER IV

19 GENERAL PROVISIONS

20 Section 401. CONTRACTS WITH THE ALASKA DIVISION OF LANDS. A
21 native group (or trustee therefor) may contract with the Division of Lands
22 of the Department of Natural Resources, for the management of lands granted
23 to it under this Act, provided that no sale, lease, exchange or other dis-
24 posal of such lands may be made without the approval of the governing body
25 of the native group (or the trustee). The contract may cover all or a por-
26 tion of the lands of the native group, shall be terminable upon reasonable
27 notice by either party, and shall provide for the terms of management by
28 reference to law or regulation or otherwise. The Department of Natural
29 Resources is authorized to receive and expend, subject to appropriation,

1 funds necessary to carry out its functions under this section.

2 Section 402. EXCHANGE OF LANDS. Any native group which would
3 otherwise be entitled to exercise preference right selection of native
4 township grants on lands which however have been selected by and patented
5 to the State of Alaska may obtain such lands if the same have not been dis-
6 posed of by exchanging lands of equal value with the State of Alaska, sub-
7 ject to such rules and regulations as may be made by the commission.

8 Section 403. DEFINITIONS. As used in this Act, the following
9 definitions apply:

10 (1) A "native group" means any tribe, band, village, community,
11 association, or other identifiable group of Indians, Aleuts, or Eskimos
12 of Alaska, resident in Alaska, including identifiable groups of residents
13 of a locality which, as such a group, claims Indian title to land in Alaska
14 by virtue of aboriginal use and occupancy at any time.

15 (2) The terms "native" and "Alaska native" mean any Alaskan
16 Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut of at least one-fourth degree Indian, Eskimo, or
17 Aleut blood or, in the absence of proof of a minimum blood quantum, who
18 is regarded as native by the native group in which he claims enrollment,
19 and whose father or mother was regarded as native by that or any other
20 native group.

21 (3) A "regional native association" means an association of
22 natives or native groups organized to represent the interests of the na-
23 tives of a region of Alaska which is greater than the area occupied or
24 formerly occupied by a historic native group. The interests of native
25 groups within the region may be merged in the regional association.

26 (4) A "regional native corporation" means a corporation
27 organized under the laws of Alaska and this Act, representing the interests
28 of the natives of a particular region of Alaska. The interests of native
29 groups within the region may be merged in the regional native corporation.

1 (5) The term "group" or "native group" may, when appropriate,
2 include not only "native group" but also "regional native association",
3 "regional native corporation" and the statewide native corporation.

4 (6) The "outer continental shelf" means the submerged lands
5 subject to the jurisdiction and control of the United States under the
6 Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act of 1953 (67 Stat. 462).

7 Section 404. It is the intent and purpose of this Act to effect
8 a final and complete settlement of all native claims against the State of
9 Alaska, and the natives of Alaska, by accepting any of the benefits provided
10 hereunder, shall be deemed to have accepted, approved and ratified such
11 final settlement and each and every term thereof.

12 Section 405. This Act may be cited as the Alaska Native Claims
13 State Settlement Act of 1968.

14 Section 406. This Act takes effect on the day after its passage
15 and approval or on the day it becomes law without approval.