

## Public Law 92-254

March 18, 1972  
[S. 671]

## AN ACT

To provide for division and for the disposition of the funds appropriated to pay a judgment in favor of the Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, Montana, and the Gros Ventre Tribe of the Fort Belknap Reservation, Montana, in Indian Claims Commission docket numbered 279-A, and for other purposes.

Indians.  
Blackfeet and  
Gros Ventre  
Tribes.  
Judgment funds,  
division and  
disposition.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the funds appropriated by the Act of October 21, 1968 (82 Stat. 1190, 1198), to pay a judgment to the Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, Montana, and the Gros Ventre Tribe of the Fort Belknap Reservation, Montana, in Indian Claims Commission docket numbered 279-A, together with interest thereon, after payment of attorney fees, litigation expenses, and the cost of carrying out the provisions of this Act, shall be divided by the Secretary of the Interior on the basis of 73.2 per centum to the Blackfeet Tribe and 26.8 per centum to the Gros Ventre Tribe.

Per capita  
distribution.

SEC. 2. The sum of \$5,671,156 from the funds credited to the Blackfeet Tribe under section 1 of this Act shall be distributed per capita to each person whose name appears on or is entitled to appear on the membership roll of the Blackfeet Tribe, and who was born on or prior to and is living on the date of this Act. The sum of \$2,100,000 from the funds credited to the Gros Ventre Tribe under section 1 of this Act shall be distributed per capita to all members of the Fort Belknap Community who were born on or prior to and are living on the date of

this Act and (a) whose names appear on the February 5, 1937, payment roll of the Gros Ventre Tribe of the Fort Belknap Reservation, or (b) who are descended from a person whose name appears on said roll, if such member possesses a greater degree of Gros Ventre blood than Assiniboine blood. If such member possesses equal quantum of Gros Ventre and Assiniboine blood he may elect to participate in the per capita distribution authorized by this section, in which event he shall not be eligible to participate in any per capita distribution of an Assiniboine judgment. A share or interest payable to enrollees or their heirs or legatees who are less than eighteen years of age or under legal disability shall be paid in accordance with such procedures, including the establishment of trusts, as the Secretary determines appropriate to protect the best interest of such persons.

Restriction.

Minors, payment procedures.

SEC. 3. The balance of each tribe's share of the funds may be advanced, expended, invested, or reinvested for any purposes that are authorized by the respective tribal governing bodies and approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 4. None of the funds distributed per capita under the provisions of this Act shall be subject to Federal or State income taxes, and the per capita payments shall not be considered as income or resources when determining the extent of eligibility for assistance under the Social Security Act. The provision of this section regarding eligibility for assistance under the Social Security Act is enacted in recognition of unique circumstances applicable to the tribes involved, and shall not be regarded as a precedent or as a general policy for application to other tribes.

Tax exemption.

49 Stat. 620.  
42 USC 1305.

SEC. 5. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to prescribe rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Rules and regulations.

Approved March 18, 1972.