

## The Alaska Tribal Recognition Act

An Act providing for State of Alaska recognition of federally recognized tribes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

**Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

### FINDINGS AND INTENT.

(a) The history of tribes in the state predates the United States and predates territorial claims to land in the state by both the United States and Imperial Russia. Indigenous people have inhabited land in the state for multiple millennia, since time immemorial or before mankind marked the passage of time.

(b) It is the intent of the people of the State of Alaska to exercise their constitutional policy-making authority and acknowledge through formal recognition the federally recognized tribes in the state.

**Section 2.** [AS 23.20.520](#)(13) is amended to read:

(13) "federally recognized tribe"

(A) means a tribe that is recognized by the United States Secretary of the Interior to exist as an Indian tribe under [25 U.S.C. 5131](#) [25 U.S.C. 479A] (Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994);

(B) includes any subdivision, subsidiary, or business enterprise wholly owned by a federally recognized tribe;

**Section 3.** [AS 44.03.030](#) is amended to read:

**Sec. 44.03.030. Construction of [AS 44.03.010 - 44.03.040](#) [CHAPTER [AS 44.03.010 - 44.03.040](#) do** [THIS CHAPTER DOES] not limit or restrict

(1) the jurisdiction of the state over a person or subject inside or outside the state that is exercisable by reason of citizenship, residence, or another reason recognized by law;

(2) jurisdiction over or ownership of other water or land under other water inside or forming part of the boundaries of the state;

(3) legislative jurisdiction of the United States over an area to which legislative jurisdiction is ceded by the state and **that** [WHICH] remains in the ownership of the United States.

**Section 4.** [AS 44.03.040](#) is amended to read:

**Sec. 44.03.040. Reconciliation with other statutes. [AS 44.03.010 - 44.03.040](#) do** [THIS CHAPTER DOES] not alter the geographic area to which a statute of the state applies if the statute specifies the area precisely in miles or by another numerical designation of distance or position. Nothing in the statute or in [AS 44.03.010 -44.03.040](#) [THIS CHAPTER] is a waiver or

relinquishment of jurisdiction over or ownership by the state of an area to which jurisdiction or ownership extends under another provision or rule of law.

**Section 5.** [AS 44.03](#) is amended by adding a new section to read:

**Article 2. Intergovernmental Relations with Tribes.**

**Sec. 44.03.100. Recognition of tribes.** The state recognizes the special and unique relationship that the United States government has with federally recognized tribes and specifically recognizes the relationship between the United States government and federally recognized tribes in the state. The state recognizes all tribes in the state that are federally recognized under 25 U.S.C. 5130 and 5131. Nothing in this section diminishes the United States government's trust responsibility or other obligations to federally recognized tribes in the state or creates a concurrent trust relationship between the state and federally recognized tribes. In this section, "federally recognized tribe" has the meaning given in [AS 23.20.520](#).

**Section 6. Severability:** The provisions of this act are independent and severable. If any provision of this act, or the applicability of any provision to any person or circumstance, shall be held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this act shall not be affected and shall be given effect to the fullest extent possible.