

1971 Senate Bill 791

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CHAPTER 302, Laws of 1971

AN ACT to repeal 20.435 (4) (ef); and to amend 49.70 (6) of the statutes, relating to exempt status for Menominee Enterprises, Inc., bonds in determining welfare eligibility.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDING AND DECLARATION. The legislature finds that the workings of present law subject indigent Menominee Indians to a cruel dilemma. The bonds which they received, issued by Menominee Enterprises, Inc., upon formation of that corporation at the time of termination of reservation status, are deemed to be a resource which - unless assigned to the state - makes them ineligible for welfare assistance. At the same time, the bonds at present have no real market value and cannot be sold on the open market. To secure welfare assistance, an Indian must assign his bonds to the state. Thus, an Indian must give up his very birthright to secure sustenance. The legislature hereby declares that such a situation is inconsistent with basic goals of social legislation and that this act is a necessary measure to eliminate that injustice, consistent with the public welfare and with the historic pattern of legislation designed to assist Indians to become self-sustaining.

SECTION 2. 20.435 (4) (ef) of the statutes is repealed.

SECTION 3. 49.70 (6) of the statutes is amended to read:

49.70 (6) ~~Where~~ On and after the effective date of this amendment (1971), ~~where~~ the owner of such security is ~~a minor child otherwise eligible for welfare assistance,~~ such security shall be an exempt asset under the welfare law and shall not disqualify such ~~minor child person~~ from receiving welfare assistance.

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