

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## Bureau of Indian Affairs

[267A2100DD/AAKC001030/  
AOA501010.000000]

**Indian Gaming; Approval by Operation of Law of the Tribal-State Compact Amendment Between the Catawba Nation and the State of North Carolina**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice publishes the approval by operation of law of the Agreement to Amend Tribal-State Compact between the Catawba Indian Nation and the State of North Carolina governing the operation and regulation of class III gaming activities.

**DATES:** The amendment takes effect on December 15, 2025.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Troy M. Woodward, Acting Director, Office of Indian Gaming, Office of the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, Washington, DC 20240, *IndianGaming@bia.gov*; (202) 219–4066.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under section 11 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), Public Law 100–497, 25 U.S.C. 2701 *et seq.*, the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) shall publish in the **Federal Register** notice of approved tribal-state compacts for the purpose of engaging in class III gaming activities on Indian lands. As required by 25 CFR 293.4, all compacts and amendments are subject to review and approval by the Secretary. The Amendment removes a restriction in the Compact which requires the Catawba Indian Nation to use a particular gaming testing company for the testing of gaming machines as defined in the Compact. The Secretary took no action on the Agreement to Amend Tribal-State Compact between the Catawba Indian Nation and the State of North Carolina governing the operation and regulation of class III gaming activities. Therefore, the amendment is considered to have been approved, but only to the extent it is consistent with IGRA. *See* 25 U.S.C. 2710(d)(8)(C).

**William Henry Kirkland, III,**

*Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 2025–22803 Filed 12–12–25; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## Bureau of Indian Affairs

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**Indian Gaming; Approval by Operation of Law of the Addendum to Tribal-State Compact for Control of Class III Blackjack on the Lower Sioux Community Reservation in the State of Minnesota for Class III Card Games**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the approval by operation of law of the Addendum to Tribal-State Compact for Control of Class III Blackjack on the Lower Sioux Community Reservation in the State of Minnesota for Class III Card Games (Amendment) governing the operation and regulation of class III gaming activities.

**DATES:** The amendment takes effect on December 15, 2025.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Troy Woodward, Acting Director, Office of Indian Gaming, Office of the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, Washington, DC 20240, *IndianGaming@bia.gov*; (202) 219–4066.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988, 25 U.S.C. 2701 *et seq.*, (IGRA) provides the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) with 45 days to review and approve or disapprove the Tribal-State compact governing the conduct of class III gaming activity on the Tribe's Indian lands. *See* 25 U.S.C. 2710(d)(8). If the Secretary does not approve or disapprove a Tribal-State compact within the 45 days, IGRA provides the Tribal-State compact is considered to have been approved by the Secretary, but only to the extent the compact is consistent with IGRA. *See* 25 U.S.C. 2710(d)(8)(D). The IGRA also requires the Secretary to publish in the **Federal Register** notice of the approved Tribal-State compacts for the purpose of engaging in class III gaming activities on Indian lands. *See* 25 U.S.C. 2710(d)(8)(D). As required by 25 CFR 293.4, all compacts and amendments are subject to review and approval by the Secretary.

This Amendment permits the Tribe to operate class III card games on the Tribe's Indian lands. The Secretary took no action on the Amendment within the 45-day statutory review period. Therefore, the Amendment is considered to have been approved, but

only to the extent it is consistent with IGRA. *See* 25 U.S.C. 2710(d)(8)(C).

**William Henry Kirkland, III,**

*Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## Bureau of Indian Affairs

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**HEARTH Act Approval of Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians, California, Amended and Restated Leasing Ordinance**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs approved the Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians, California, Amended and Restated Leasing Ordinance under the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership Act of 2012 (HEARTH Act). With this approval, the Tribe is authorized to enter into business leases without further Secretary of the Interior approval.

**DATES:** The Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs issued the approval on October 31, 2025.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Carla Clark, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Division of Real Estate Services, 1001 Indian School Road NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104, *carla.clark@bia.gov*, (702) 484–3233.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Summary of the HEARTH Act**

The HEARTH Act makes a voluntary, alternative land leasing process available to Tribes, by amending the Indian Long-Term Leasing Act of 1955, 25 U.S.C. 415. The HEARTH Act authorizes Tribes to negotiate and enter into leases of Tribal trust lands, for various uses, for a primary term of 25 years and, in some cases, up to two renewal terms of 25 years each, without the approval of the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary). The HEARTH Act also authorizes Tribes to enter into leases for residential, recreational, religious, or educational purposes for a primary term of up to 75 years without the approval of the Secretary.

Participating Tribes develop leasing regulations, including an environmental review process, and then must obtain the Secretary's approval of those regulations prior to entering into leases.