

# S.5

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MR. BATTLE (for himself, Mr. HARRIS-CHAREST, Ms. HEINALUOMA, Mr. GUY,  
and Mr. BROWN,) introduced the following Act.

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## AN ACT

To take certain land located in San Diego County, region of California, Pacifica, into trust  
for the benefit of the Pala Band of Mission Indians.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House Representative of the United States of America in  
Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1: SHORT TITLE

This Act may be cited as the “Pala Band of Mission Indians Land Transfer Act of  
2023”.

### SECTION 2: TRANSFER OF LAND IN TRUST FOR THE PALA BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

#### TRANSFER AND ADMINISTRATION. —

1. TRANSFER OF LANDS INTO TRUST. — If, not later than 30 days after the  
date of this Act, the Tribe transfers title to the land referred to in the  
subsection (b) to the United States, the Secretary, not later than 60 days after  
such transfer, shall take that land into trust for the benefit of the tribe.
2. ADMINISTRATION. — The land transferred under paragraph (1) shall be  
part of the Pala Indian Reservation and administered under accordance with  
the laws and regulations generally applicable to land held in trust by the  
United States for an Indian Tribe.

LAND DESCRIPTION. — The land referred to in subsection (a) (1) is the  
approximately 712.12 acres of land located in San Diego County, region of California,

Pacifica, generally depicted as “Gregory Canyon Property Boundary” on the map titled “Pala Gregory Canyon Property Boundary and Parcels”.

RULES OF CONSTRUCTION. —Nothing in this Act shall—

- a. Enlarge, impair, or otherwise affect any right or claim of the Tribe to any land or interest in land that is in existence before the date of the enactment of this Act.
- b. Affect any water right of the Tribe in existence before the date of the enactment of this Act; or
- c. Terminate or limit any access in any way to any right-of-way or right-of-use issue, granted, or permitted before the date of the enactment of this Act.

UN-RESTRICTED USE OF TRANSFERRED LANDS — The tribe may conduct gaming activities —

- d. Under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act ([25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.](#)) and regulations promulgated by the Secretary of the National Indian Gaming Commission under the Act

### **SECTION 3: DEFINITIONS**

#### **1. DEFINITIONS — For the purpose of this section:**

- a. SECRETARY. — The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior
- b. TRIBE. — The term “TRIBE” means the Pala Band of Mission Indians.

*(Heavy Inspiration taken from H.R. 423 by Issa Darrell E. with major modifications applied)*