

An act creating a Commission to make the final Roll of all the citizens of the Choctaw Nation.

Be it enacted by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation assembled:-

The Principal Chief is hereby authorized by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to apppoint a Commission of six Members. The Principal Chief is hereby made a member, and shall be ex-officio Chairman of said Commission. The Commission thus authorized shall make a final and complete Roll of all the citizens of the Choctaw Nation.

The decision of a majority of the Commission on all questions shall be final, and binding on all the members. The Chairman shall name the times ~~and~~ and places for all the meetings of the Commission, and also appoint a Clerk, to keep a record of all its proceedings. The Principal Chief shall fill all vacancies occuring in the Commission, and all members thereof shall be commissioned by the Principal Chief and take the oath of office.

Section. 2- Be it further enacted - The Commission shall thoroughly revise the Roll of citizens made under an Act entitled " An Act creating three Commissions to make a complete Roll of the citizens of the Choctaw Nation" approved October 30th. 1896. In such revision the Commission shall strike from said Roll all names found, after proper investigation by them, wrongfully thereon; and it may add names thereto in like manner found entitled to enrollment. In such revision the the Commission shall conduct all investigations according to the Constitution and Laws of the Choctaw Nation. The Commission shall allow any person before it an attorney, if he desires one. The Chairman shall procure all Rolls of citizens of the Choctaw Nation heretofore made

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for the and information of the Commission, and other interested persons.
Section. 3.- Be it further enacted .- The Commission shall procure proper testimony to establish any fraud practiced on the Choctaw Nation by persons claiming citizenship under decisions of the Dawes Commission, and the United States Courts in the Indian Territory; and for this purpose the Commission shall summon before it all persons who were witnesses for applicants either before the Dawes Commission, or the United States Courts. Where a witness is unable to appear before the Commission, or if the Commission deem it best from any cause, the Chairman ~~may~~ may authorize any Commissioner to examine any such Witness where he may be found; and all Commissioners under this Act, and the Clerk, are hereby authorized to administer oaths to witnesses. All testimony thus procured shall be used to reopen cases in the United States Courts where applicants have been declared citizens.

Section. 4- Be it further enacted - The Principal Chief shall employ some competent attorney, or attorneys to attend the Commission, and assist in all its investigations; and also represent the Nation in all cases before the United States Courts; and especially to obtain a re-hearing of all cases heretofore passed on in said Courts. Said Attorney shall receive for his ~~service~~ salary the amount agreed on between him and the Principal Chief, payable quarterly out of the National Treasury. The Chief shall have the authority to remove said attorney when he deems it for the Nations best interest, and to appoint another in his stead.

5- Be it further enacted - The Principal Chief shall take such steps as in his judgment are proper and necessary to have the Supreme Court of
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the United States declare void so much of the law of Congress - giving the Dawes commission, with right of appeal to the United States court, the right to have and determine the petitions of persons claiming citizenship in the Choctaw Nation. He shall secure the cooperation of the other Nations, as far as he can, in this matter. And the said attorneys shall use their best endeavors to have said law repealed at this next session of Congress. All services rendered under this section shall be paid out of the amount appropriated in Section 10 of this Act.

Section. 7.- Be it further enacted- That the Principal Chief is hereby empowered and directed to remove any appointee under this Act found drunk: and he shall suspend any Commissioner charged with bribery, and report him to Council. The House of Representatives shall at its first sitting prefer Articles of impeachment and if found guilty such person shall ever thereafter be debarred from holding any office of trust or honor in the Choctaw Nation.

Section. 8.- Be it further ~~resolved~~ enacted.- The Commission shall also have authority and is hereby especially instructed to inquire into any and all cases of persons who have been heretofore admitted to citizenship by the General Council, and if the Commission finds that bribery was used with the Committee on Citizenship, or with any member of Council, or if perjured testimony was used in the case, the Commission shall report all such cases to the general Council and ask the repeal of the laws granting such persons citizenship, and shall strike the names of all such persons from the Roll.

Section. 9.- Be it further enacted.- ^{Each} Commissioners under this Act shall

received \$1800.00 per annum and the Clerk, \$1800.00 and all payments shall be quarterly on the certificate of the Principal Chief to the Auditor, whose warrant the Treasurer shall pay. All witnesses under this Act shall receive \$2.00 per day, and 5 cents for every mile traveled, on the certificate of the Chairman.

Section 10.- Be it further enacted.- The sum of \$32000.00 , or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated, and placed subject to the orders of the Principal Chief to enable him to carry out the provisions of this Act: and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Proposed by S. H. Mackey

[Faint handwritten notes and signatures, including "Bill No 41" and "Commissioner"]

Read interpreted
and referred to the
House this Oct 27,
1897.

J. C. Hampton
President of Senate
M. W. Leflore
Rec. Sec.

Read interpreted
and referred to the
Chief this Nov 3rd
1897

J. C. Hampton
President of Senate
M. W. Leflore
Rec. Sec.

Read interpreted
and referred to the
House this Oct 27,
1897.

J. C. Hampton
President of Senate
M. W. Leflore
Rec. Sec.

Read interpreted
and referred to
Committee on
Chief Message.

This 20th day of
Dec, 1897
M. W. Leflore
Speaker of the House

W. W. Cropper
Rec. Sec.

Bill No 41

An Act Creating a
Commission to
make a Roll.

Approved Nov 4th
1897

Green W. Curtis
Principal
Chief C. R.

Filed in my office
this November
5th 1897.

Soloman J. Homer
Nathl Beady
C. R.