

LEGISLATIVE ACTS

General Allotment Act

In 1887, Congress passed the General Allotment Act, which also became known as the Dawes Act. The Dawes Act divided communal tribal lands into individual plots, then sold the remaining land to settlers. This act provided U.S. Citizenship to the Native Americans who accepted allotment.

Curtis Act

In 1898, Congress passed the Curtis Act, named after Kaw tribal member Charles Curtis. The Curtis Act dismantled tribal governments and courts, so that all tribes would be under federal law. This act also required a membership list for each tribe. The Dawes Commission then created the Dawes Roll to record who was a tribal member.

Osage Allotment Act of 1906

This act allotted land to Osage tribal members and ensured the Osage retained mineral rights to their land. Unlike other tribes, the Osage were able to keep the entirety of their land, but it was still broken up into individual plots.

Burke Act of 1906

This act applied to Native Americans who received allotments. The law prevented those who accepted allotment from becoming U.S. citizens until the end of a 25-year trust period. This act also gave the Secretary of the Interior the authority to determine whether an individual was competent.

Indian Citizenship Act of 1924

This act, which was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Calvin Coolidge, gave citizenship to all Native Americans born in the United States. They did not have to apply for citizenship or give up their tribal enrollment. However, not every state allowed Native Americans to vote despite their new citizenship. It took 37 years from the passage of the General Allotment Act for all Native Americans to be granted US citizenship.

Act of February 27, 1925

This act gave the Secretary of the Interior the authority to revoke a certificate of competency if they found an Osage “wasting or squandering” their income.