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In the Senate of the United States. Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, submitting a draft of a bill relative to the surrender of land patents to Indians in certain cases.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

SUBMITTING

A draft of a bill relative to the surrender of land patents to Indians in certain cases.

JULY 22, 1892.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, July 21, 1892.

SIR: Referring to Department letter of May 14, 1892, submitting a draft of an amendment to section 2 of the act of October 19, 1888, entitled "An act authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to accept the surrender of and cancel land patents to Indians in certain cases," I have the honor to transmit herewith a draft of an amendment as a substitute for said amendment, being more comprehensive and more fully covering cases which have arisen.

I have the honor to request that this matter receive the early and favorable consideration of Congress.

Very respectfully,

JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

AN ACT to amend section two of an act approved October nineteenth, eighteen hundred and eighty-eight, entitled "An act authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to accept the surrender of and cancel land patents to Indians in certain cases."

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section two of the act approved October nineteenth, eighteen hundred and eighty-eight, entitled "An act authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to accept the surrender of and cancel land patents to Indians in certain cases," is hereby amended by adding thereto the following words, namely:

"*Provided also,* That during the time the United States may hold the title to land in trust for any Indian, and for which lands a conditional patent has been issued, it shall be competent for the Secretary of the Interior to cancel any such patent whenever, in his opinion, the same ought to be canceled, for error in the issue thereof or for the best interests of the Indians. And if possession of the original patent can not be obtained, such cancellation shall be effective if made upon the records of the General Land Office. And the Secretary of the Interior may issue another patent in lieu thereof, if proper, to the party entitled to the same, in accordance with the preceding proviso."

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