

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

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SENATE DRS95228-MD-125A* (05/15)

Short Title: Indian Cultural Center/Terminate Lease.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Walters (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE TO TERMINATE ITS LEASE OF THE INDIAN
3 CULTURAL CENTER PROPERTY; TO DIRECT HOW THE PROPERTY IS TO BE
4 DISPOSED OF; AND TO AMEND THE STATUTORY RECOGNITION OF THE
5 LUMBEE TRIBE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

6 Whereas, the State of North Carolina acquired the following tracts or parcels of
7 land located in Maxton Township, Robeson County, for the development, use, and maintenance
8 of an Indian Cultural Center: (i) 386.69 acres, more or less, by deed from the Riverside Country
9 Club of Pembroke, Inc., dated April 14, 1983, recorded in Book 533, Page 164, Robeson
10 County Registry and by deed dated August 24, 1984, recorded in Book 563, Page 254, Robeson
11 County Registry, less and except approximately 110 acres for the use and operation of the
12 Riverside Golf Course; (ii) 99.62 acres, more or less, by deed from Evelyn S. Morgan Abbott,
13 dated March 25, 1988, recorded in Book 575, Page 523, Robeson County Registry; (iii) 10
14 acres, more or less, by deed from H.C. Locklear, et ux, dated December 12, 1985, recorded in
15 Book 586, Page 142, Robeson County Registry; and (iv) 42.50 acres, more or less, by deed
16 from Ronald Revels and wife, Dorisetta Revels, dated December 17, 1996, recorded in Book
17 931, Page 415, Robeson County Registry; and

18 Whereas, pursuant to Chapter 1074 of the 1989 Session Laws, as amended by
19 Chapter 900 of the 1991 Session Laws and Chapter 88 of the 1993 Session Laws, the General
20 Assembly directed that the State of North Carolina enter into a 99-year lease of the Indian
21 Cultural Center property with a North Carolina nonprofit entity known as the North Carolina
22 Indian Cultural Center, Inc. (NCICC); and

23 Whereas, the State of North Carolina entered into a 99-year lease agreement, dated
24 May 12, 1994, with NCICC, which lease was subsequently amended on December 9, 1997, and
25 June 6, 2001, in accordance with S.L. 1997-41 and S.L. 2001-89 (collectively, the "lease"); and

26 Whereas, the lease provides in paragraph 8 that the Indian Cultural Center property
27 is to "be maintained and improved, at no cost or expense to the [State of North Carolina], for
28 those activities covered by the original charter of [T]he North Carolina Indian Cultural Center,
29 Inc., on file with the North Carolina Secretary of State"; and

30 Whereas, as provided in its charter, the organizational purposes of NCICC are, in
31 part: "a. [t]o respectfully present to the public accurate information on Native North American
32 history, art, and culture"; and "b. [t]o develop, establish, manage, furnish, equip, maintain,
33 preserve, exhibit and interpret to the public the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center with its
34 Indian villages, arts and crafts, archaeological digs, museums, art exhibits, library, visitors'



1 center, recreational facilities, entertainment, restaurants, concessions, and other related
2 operations of an artistic, economic development, educational, and cultural nature"; and

3 Whereas, in addition to the maintenance requirements of paragraph 8, paragraphs 16
4 and 20 of the lease require NCICC to maintain during its term of possession, at its expense, the
5 Indian Cultural Center property and all permanent structures located on the property in
6 accordance with all applicable laws, rules, ordinances, orders, and regulations of State and
7 county governmental agencies; and

8 Whereas, in March 2010, the Office of State Construction assessed the condition of
9 the improvements at the Indian Cultural Center property, from which assessment it appears that
10 the improvements on the property have not been maintained as required in paragraphs 8, 16,
11 and 20 of the lease; and

12 Whereas, subsequently, the North Carolina Department of Insurance conducted a
13 fire and safety inspection at the Indian Cultural Center property, from which inspection it
14 appears that the improvements on the property have not been maintained as required in
15 paragraphs 8, 16, and 20 of the lease; and

16 Whereas, the Riverside Golf Course, comprising approximately 110 acres, is
17 contiguous to Indian Cultural Center property and uses as a means of access the main road
18 extending through the Indian Cultural Center property; and

19 Whereas, pursuant to paragraph 13 of the lease, the State of North Carolina retained
20 the right of ingress and egress, both vehicular and pedestrian, over the main road extending
21 through the Indian Cultural Center property for the purpose of accessing the Riverside Golf
22 Course; and

23 Whereas, NCICC has hindered or prevented access to the Riverside Golf Course by
24 the State, its lessees, contractors, and invitees by changing the locks on the entrance gate to the
25 Indian Cultural Center property and by other means; and

26 Whereas, paragraph 25 of the lease requires NCICC to keep in force and maintain
27 throughout the term of the lease, fire and extended coverage insurance on the permanent
28 structures located on the Indian Cultural Center property; and

29 Whereas, pursuant to paragraph 26 of the lease, NCICC is required to keep in force,
30 for the mutual benefit of the State and NCICC, at no cost to the State, comprehensive broad
31 form general public liability insurance on the terms and conditions set forth in the lease; and

32 Whereas, NCICC has failed to provide evidence to the State that the insurance
33 required under paragraphs 25 and 26 of the lease is in force; and

34 Whereas, upon consultation with the Department of Administration, the Office of
35 the Attorney General provided NCICC with notice in a letter dated January 18, 2011, that
36 NCICC was in breach of its obligations under the lease for defaults that included some of those
37 set forth above; and

38 Whereas, the General Assembly also finds that NCICC is, and has been for some
39 time, in breach of its obligations under the lease for the defaults set forth above and other
40 defaults and that it would be in the best interest of the State if the lease were terminated and
41 existing law amended to allow the State of North Carolina to effect an alternate arrangement
42 for the disposition and management of the Indian Cultural Center property other than the lease
43 with NCICC; and

44 Whereas, pursuant to subsection (a) of Section 18 of Chapter 1074 of the 1989
45 Session Laws, as amended by Section 22 of Chapter 900 of the 1991 Session Laws, Section 1
46 of Chapter 88 of the 1993 Session Laws, Section 33 of Chapter 561 of the 1993 Session Laws,
47 Section 1 of S.L. 1997-41, and Section 1 of S.L. 2001-89, the Riverside Golf Course was
48 excluded from the real property subject to the lease and operated for a period of time under
49 separate lease agreements; and

1 Whereas, the Riverside Golf Course is not currently in operation and all lease
2 agreements for the Riverside Golf Course have either expired or allow for termination upon 30
3 days' notice by the State; Now, therefore,

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Termination of lease and repossession of land. – Notwithstanding the
6 provisions of subsection (a) of Section 18 of Chapter 1074 of the 1989 Session Laws, as
7 amended by subsection (e) of Section 22 of Chapter 900 of the 1991 Session Laws, Section 1 of
8 Chapter 88 of the 1993 Session Laws, Section 33 of Chapter 561 of the 1993 Session Laws,
9 Section 1 of S.L. 1997-41, and Section 1 of S.L. 2001-89, the State of North Carolina shall
10 immediately terminate its lease of the Indian Cultural Center property and repossess the
11 property.

12 **SECTION 2.** Disposition of reacquired land. – After termination of the lease and
13 repossession of the Indian Cultural Center property, the Department of Administration shall
14 dispose of the Indian Cultural Center property, including the Riverside Golf Course, in
15 accordance with applicable provisions of law and shall attempt to dispose of it in such a way
16 that ensures that it will continue to serve the following purposes:

- 17 (1) The preservation, exhibition, and interpretation of Native North American
18 arts, crafts, and artifacts.
- 19 (2) The provision of information to the public on Native North American history
20 and culture.
- 21 (3) The installation of new and the renovation of existing public recreational and
22 entertainment facilities.
- 23 (4) The cultivation of economic development enterprises.

24 **SECTION 3.** No Governor or Council of State approval. – Notwithstanding any
25 other provision of law, a disposition of the property pursuant to Section 2 of this act shall
26 require neither Governor nor Council of State approval.

27 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 71A-3 reads as rewritten:

28 **"§ 71A-3. Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina; rights, privileges, immunities, obligations**
29 **and duties.**

30 The Indians now residing in Robeson and adjoining counties of North Carolina, originally
31 found by the first white settlers on the Lumbee River in Robeson County, and claiming joint
32 descent from remnants of early American Colonists and certain tribes of Indians originally
33 inhabiting the coastal regions of North Carolina, who have previously been known as "Croatan
34 Indians," "Indians of Robeson County," and "Cherokee Indians of Robeson County," shall,
35 from and after April 20, 1953, be designated and officially recognized as Lumbee Tribe of
36 North Carolina and shall continue to enjoy ~~all rights, privileges and immunities enjoyed by~~
37 ~~them as citizens of the State as now provided by law, and shall continue to be subject to all the~~
38 ~~obligations and duties of citizens under the law.~~ all their rights, privileges, and immunities as an
39 American Indian Tribe with a recognized tribal governing body carrying out and exercising
40 substantial governmental duties and powers similar to the State, being recognized as eligible for
41 the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their
42 status as Indians."

43 **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law.