

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2013

H.B. 549  
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE DRH80180-LL-144 (3/19)

Short Title: Recognize Chowanoke Nation. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Steinburg.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZE THE CHOWANOKE NATION AS AN INDIAN  
3 TRIBE.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1. Chapter 71A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new  
6 section to read:

7 "§ 71A-7.3. Chowanoke Nation of North Carolina; rights, privileges, immunities,  
8 obligations, and duties.

9 The Indian Tribe now residing in small communities in Chowan, Gates, Hertford, and  
10 Perquimans Counties, who were granted reservational lands in both Hertford and Gates  
11 Counties, whose ancestors attended the first Indian School in North Carolina, and whose  
12 ancestors were listed as tribal chief men in North Carolina State records shall, from and after  
13 July 1, 2013, be designated and officially recognized as the Chowanoke Nation of North  
14 Carolina, and shall continue to enjoy all their rights, privileges, and immunities as an American  
15 Indian Tribe with a recognized tribal governing body carrying out and exercising substantial  
16 governmental duties and powers similar to the State, being recognized as eligible for the special  
17 programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as  
18 Indians."

19 SECTION 2. G.S. 115C-210.1 reads as rewritten:

20 "§ 115C-210.1. Membership – How appointed.

21 The Council shall consist of 15 members, as follows:

22 ...

23 (5) Indian members of the Council shall be broadly representative of North  
24 Carolina Indian tribes and organizations, specifically, the Eastern Band of  
25 Cherokee, Lumbee, Coharie, Waccamaw-Siouan, Haliwa Saponi, Meherrin,  
26 Chowanoke, Person County Indians, Cumberland County Association for  
27 Indian People, the Guilford Native American Association, the Metrolina  
28 Native American Association, and any other Indian tribe gaining State  
29 recognition in the future."

30 SECTION 3. G.S. 143B-407(a) reads as rewritten:

31 "(a) The State Commission of Indian Affairs shall consist of two persons appointed by  
32 the General Assembly, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Assistant Secretary of  
33 Commerce in charge of the Division of Employment Security, the Secretary of Administration,  
34 the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, the Commissioner of Labor or their  
35 designees and ~~21~~23 representatives of the Indian community. These Indian members shall be  
36 selected by tribal or community consent from the Indian groups that are recognized by the State



1 of North Carolina and are principally geographically located as follows: the Coharie of  
2 Sampson and Harnett Counties; the Eastern Band of Cherokees; the Haliwa Saponi of Halifax,  
3 Warren, and adjoining counties; the Lumbees of Robeson, Hoke and Scotland Counties; the  
4 Meherrin of Hertford County; the Waccamaw-Siouan from Columbus and Bladen Counties; the  
5 Sappony; the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation of Alamance and Orange ~~Counties,~~  
6 Counties; the Chowanoke Nation of Chowan, Gates, Hertford, and Perquimans Counties; and  
7 the Native Americans located in Cumberland, Guilford, Johnston, Mecklenburg, Orange, and  
8 Wake Counties. The Coharie shall have two members; the Eastern Band of Cherokees, two; the  
9 Haliwa Saponi, two; the Lumbees, three; the Meherrin, one; the Waccamaw-Siouan, two; the  
10 Sappony, one; the Cumberland County Association for Indian People, two; the Guilford Native  
11 Americans, two; the Metrolina Native Americans, two; the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi  
12 Nation, ~~one,~~ one; the Chowanoke Nation, one; the Triangle Native American Society, one. Of  
13 the two appointments made by the General Assembly, one shall be made upon the  
14 recommendation of the Speaker, and one shall be made upon recommendation of the President  
15 Pro Tempore of the Senate. Appointments by the General Assembly shall be made in  
16 accordance with G.S. 120-121 and vacancies shall be filled in accordance with G.S. 120-122."

17 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2013.