

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013

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HOUSE BILL 549

Short Title: Recognize Chowanoke Nation. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Steinburg (Primary Sponsor).

For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.

Referred to: Government.

April 4, 2013

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZE THE CHOWANOKE NATION AS AN INDIAN
TRIBE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

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

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

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

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

The Council shall consist of 15 members, as follows:

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

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

"(a) The State Commission of Indian Affairs shall consist of two persons appointed by
the General Assembly, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Assistant Secretary of
Commerce in charge of the Division of Employment Security, the Secretary of Administration,
the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, the Commissioner of Labor or their
designees and ~~21~~23 representatives of the Indian community. These Indian members shall be



1 selected by tribal or community consent from the Indian groups that are recognized by the State
2 of North Carolina and are principally geographically located as follows: the Coharie of
3 Sampson and Harnett Counties; the Eastern Band of Cherokees; the Haliwa Saponi of Halifax,
4 Warren, and adjoining counties; the Lumbees of Robeson, Hoke and Scotland Counties; the
5 Meherrin of Hertford County; the Waccamaw-Siouan from Columbus and Bladen Counties; the
6 Sappony; the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation of Alamance and Orange ~~Counties,~~
7 Counties; the Chowanoke Nation of Chowan, Gates, Hertford, and Perquimans Counties; and
8 the Native Americans located in Cumberland, Guilford, Johnston, Mecklenburg, Orange, and
9 Wake Counties. The Coharie shall have two members; the Eastern Band of Cherokees, two; the
10 Haliwa Saponi, two; the Lumbees, three; the Meherrin, one; the Waccamaw-Siouan, two; the
11 Sappony, one; the Cumberland County Association for Indian People, two; the Guilford Native
12 Americans, two; the Metrolina Native Americans, two; the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi
13 Nation, ~~one,~~ one; the Chowanoke Nation, one; the Triangle Native American Society, one. Of
14 the two appointments made by the General Assembly, one shall be made upon the
15 recommendation of the Speaker, and one shall be made upon recommendation of the President
16 Pro Tempore of the Senate. Appointments by the General Assembly shall be made in
17 accordance with G.S. 120-121 and vacancies shall be filled in accordance with G.S. 120-122."
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SECTION 4. This act becomes effective July 1, 2013.