

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2758

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## AN ACT

To provide for the recognition of the Lumbee Tribe of North  
Carolina, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2   *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Lumbee Recognition  
3 Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FEDERAL RECOGNITION.**

5       The Act of June 7, 1956 (70 Stat. 254, chapter 375),  
6 is amended—

7           (1) by striking section 2;

8           (2) in the first sentence of the first section, by  
9       striking “That the Indians” and inserting the fol-  
10      lowing:

11 **“SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF LUMBEE INDIANS.**

12       “The Indians”;

13           (3) in the preamble—

14           (A) by inserting before the first undesig-  
15      nated clause the following:

16 **“SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

17       “Congress finds that—”;

18           (B) by designating the undesignated  
19      clauses as paragraphs (1) through (4), respec-  
20      tively, and indenting appropriately;

21           (C) by striking “Whereas” each place it  
22      appears;

23           (D) by striking “and” after the semicolon  
24      at the end of each of paragraphs (1) and (2)  
25      (as so designated); and

1 (E) in paragraph (4) (as so designated), by  
2 striking “: Now, therefore,” and inserting a pe-  
3 riod;

4 (4) by moving the enacting clause so as to ap-  
5 pear before section 1 (as so designated);

6 (5) by striking the last sentence of section 3 (as  
7 designated by paragraph (2));

8 (6) by inserting before section 3 (as designated  
9 by paragraph (2)) the following:

10 **“SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

11 “In this Act:

12 “(1) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means  
13 the Secretary of the Interior.

14 “(2) TRIBE.—The term ‘Tribe’ means the  
15 Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina or the Lumbee In-  
16 dians of North Carolina.”; and

17 (7) by adding at the end the following:

18 **“SEC. 4. FEDERAL RECOGNITION.**

19 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Federal recognition is extended  
20 to the Tribe (as designated as petitioner number 65 by  
21 the Office of Federal Acknowledgment).

22 “(b) APPLICABILITY OF LAWS.—All laws and regula-  
23 tions of the United States of general application to Indi-  
24 ans and Indian tribes shall apply to the Tribe and its  
25 members.

1       “(c) PETITION FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—Notwith-  
2 standing section 3, any group of Indians in Robeson and  
3 adjoining counties, North Carolina, whose members are  
4 not enrolled in the Tribe (as determined under section  
5 5(d)) may petition under part 83 of title 25 of the Code  
6 of Federal Regulations for acknowledgment of tribal exist-  
7 ence.

8       **“SEC. 5. ELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL SERVICES.**

9       “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Tribe and its members shall  
10 be eligible for all services and benefits provided by the  
11 Federal Government to federally recognized Indian tribes.

12       “(b) SERVICE AREA.—For the purpose of the delivery  
13 of Federal services and benefits described in subsection  
14 (a), those members of the Tribe residing in Robeson, Cum-  
15 berland, Hoke, and Scotland counties in North Carolina  
16 shall be deemed to be residing on or near an Indian res-  
17 ervation.

18       “(c) DETERMINATION OF NEEDS.—On verification  
19 by the Secretary of a tribal roll under subsection (d), the  
20 Secretary and the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-  
21 ices shall—

22               “(1) develop, in consultation with the Tribe, a  
23 determination of needs to provide the services for  
24 which members of the Tribe are eligible; and

1 “(2) after the tribal roll is verified, each submit  
2 to Congress a written statement of those needs.

3 “(d) TRIBAL ROLL.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For purpose of the delivery  
5 of Federal services and benefits described in sub-  
6 section (a), the tribal roll in effect on the date of en-  
7 actment of this section shall, subject to verification  
8 by the Secretary, define the service population of the  
9 Tribe.

10 “(2) VERIFICATION LIMITATION AND DEAD-  
11 LINE.—The verification by the Secretary under  
12 paragraph (1) shall—

13 “(A) be limited to confirming documentary  
14 proof of compliance with the membership cri-  
15 teria set out in the constitution of the Tribe  
16 adopted on November 16, 2001; and

17 “(B) be completed not later than 2 years  
18 after the submission of a digitized roll with sup-  
19 porting documentary proof by the Tribe to the  
20 Secretary.

21 **“SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION TO TAKE LAND INTO TRUST.**

22 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other pro-  
23 vision of law, the Secretary is hereby authorized to take  
24 land into trust for the benefit of the Tribe.

1       “(b) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN LAND.—An applica-  
 2       tion to take into trust land located within Robeson Coun-  
 3       ty, North Carolina, under this section shall be treated by  
 4       the Secretary as an ‘on reservation’ trust acquisition  
 5       under part 151 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations  
 6       (or a successor regulation).

7       **“SEC. 7. JURISDICTION OF STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.**

8       “(a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to land located  
 9       within the State of North Carolina that is owned by, or  
 10       held in trust by the United States for the benefit of, the  
 11       Tribe, or any dependent Indian community of the Tribe,  
 12       the State of North Carolina shall exercise jurisdiction  
 13       over—

14               “(1) all criminal offenses that are committed;  
 15       and

16               “(2) all civil actions that arise.

17       **“(b) TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION.—**

18               “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),  
 19       the Secretary may accept on behalf of the United  
 20       States, after consulting with the Attorney General of  
 21       the United States, any transfer by the State of  
 22       North Carolina to the United States of any portion  
 23       of the jurisdiction of the State of North Carolina de-  
 24       scribed in subsection (a) over Indian country occu-

1       pied by the Tribe pursuant to an agreement between  
2       the Tribe and the State of North Carolina.

3           “(2) RESTRICTION.—A transfer of jurisdiction  
4       described in paragraph (1) may not take effect until  
5       2 years after the effective date of the agreement de-  
6       scribed in that paragraph.

7           “(c) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section affects the ap-  
8       plication of section 109 of the Indian Child Welfare Act  
9       of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1919).

10   **“SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11       “‘There are authorized to be appropriated such sums  
12       as are necessary to carry out this Act.

13   **“SEC. 9. SHORT TITLE.**

14       “‘This Act may be cited as the ‘Lumbee Tribe of  
15       North Carolina Recognition Act’.”.

        Passed the House of Representatives November 1,  
2021.

        Attest:

*Clerk.*

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