

1 Indian, which is defined in the form as any individual who is a member of a federally
2 recognized tribe, a state recognized tribe, a tribe terminated since 1940, and those who are
3 a member of an organized group that received a grant under the Indian Education Act of 1988
4 as it was in effect October 19, 1994; and

5 WHEREAS, the Points-au-Chien Indian Tribe and the BCCM tribes have been
6 previously recognized by the state as members of the United Houma Nation pursuant to
7 Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 124 of the 1990 Regular Session of the Legislature; and

8 WHEREAS, the Houma Tribe, which was incorporated in 1972, and the Houma
9 Alliance, which was incorporated in 1974, were recognized as Indian communities of
10 Louisiana in existence in the vicinities of Galliano and Dulac, Louisiana since the nineteenth
11 century pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution No. 97 of the 1977 Regular Session of the
12 Legislature; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1979, the Houma Alliance and the Houma Tribe merged to become
14 the United Houma Nation; and

15 WHEREAS, the United Houma Nation was recognized as an Indian community of
16 the state pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 124 of the 1990 Regular Session of
17 the Legislature; and

18 WHEREAS, it was acknowledged in Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 124 of the
19 1990 Regular Session of the Legislature that communities of the Houma Indian Nation have
20 existed in the vicinity of Grand Caillou, Dulac, Golden Meadow, Isle de Jean Charles, Lower
21 Points aux Chenes, Lower Montegut, and Bayou Dularge since the eighteenth century; and

22 WHEREAS, the United Houma Nation filed a petition with the Bureau of Indian
23 Affairs seeking federal acknowledgment; and

24 WHEREAS, in December, 1994, the Bureau of Indian Affairs issued a proposed
25 negative finding against the United Houma Nation, finding that the tribe as a whole failed to
26 satisfy certain social and political criteria required for federal acknowledgment, but that there
27 was evidence of several distinct communities that could meet the necessary criteria; and

28 WHEREAS, the Points-au-Chien Indian community and members of the BCCM
29 maintained separate communities despite being part of the United Houma Nation and in 1993,
30 the Points-au-Chien Indian community filed separate Articles of Incorporation; and

1 WHEREAS, in 1994, the Points-au-Chien Indian community filed a petition with the
2 Bureau of Indian Affairs following the issuance of the negative proposed finding against the
3 United Houma Nation; and

4 WHEREAS, in 1995, the Grand Caillou/Dulac Indian community, the Isle de Jean
5 Charles Indian community, and the Bayou Lafourche Indian community established the
6 Biloxi-Chitimacha Confederation of Muskogees, Inc., and they have also submitted a petition
7 to the Bureau of Indian Affairs on behalf of the three bands; and

8 WHEREAS, in 2001, the chairman of the Bayou Lafourche Indian community was
9 informed that his members were ineligible for participation in Indian Education Programs and
10 in the fall of 2003, the principal of Points-aux-Chenes Elementary was informed that the
11 members of the Isle de Jean Charles Band of the BCCM and the Points-au-Chien community
12 would be ineligible to receive federal funds if they did not receive state recognition during the
13 legislative session; and

14 WHEREAS, other schools affected by the loss of federal funding include Montegut
15 Elementary, Montegut Middle, Bourg Elementary, Grand Caillou Elementary, South
16 Terrebonne High School, Ellender High School, and Grand Caillou Middle School; and

17 WHEREAS, the communities of Points-au-Chien and the BCCM have sought state
18 recognition in both the 1999 and 2001 Regular Sessions of the Legislature; and

19 WHEREAS, Indian communities of the Biloxi, Chitimacha, and Choctaw have existed
20 in the vicinity of Grand Caillou, Dulac, Isle de Jean Charles, and Bayou Lafourche since the
21 earliest settlement of these areas to the present; and

22 WHEREAS, the Indian community of Lower Points-au-Chien has also existed since
23 the earliest settlement of this area to the present; and

24 WHEREAS, ancestors of the Indians were residing in the area consisting of Louisiana
25 at the first contact with Europeans and have continued to reside in the area of Louisiana since
26 that time; and

27 WHEREAS, extensive genealogical and historical research has been accomplished and
28 clearly identifies the core ancestry of these tribes as Biloxi, Chitimacha, and Choctaw Indians;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, the policy of the state of Louisiana provides for recognition of Indian

1 tribes within its borders, to support their tribal aspirations, to preserve their cultural heritage
2 and improve their economic condition and to assist them in the achievement of their just
3 rights; and

4 WHEREAS, unless these tribes are formally recognized by the state during this
5 regular session of the Legislature, more federal Indian education funds will be lost in the
6 parishes of Lafourche and Terrebonne.

7 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of Louisiana that the state of
8 Louisiana formally recognizes the Isle de Jean Charles Band of the Biloxi-Chitimacha
9 Confederation of Muskogeas ("BCCM"), the Bayou Lafourche Band of the BCCM, the
10 Grand Caillou/Dulac Band of the BCCM, known collectively as the "BCCM Tribes" and the
11 Points-au-Chien Indian Tribe as Indian tribes of the state.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Legislature of Louisiana that the Congress of
13 the United States and the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs are hereby memorialized,
14 requested, and urged to take such steps as are necessary to effect, in the near future, formal
15 recognition of the Isle de Jean Charles Band of the Biloxi-Chitimacha Confederation of
16 Muskogeas ("BCCM"), the Bayou Lafourche Band of the BCCM, the Grand Caillou/Dulac
17 Band of the BCCM, known collectively as the "BCCM Tribes" and the Points-au-Chien
18 Indian tribe and to acknowledge that the rights of the Isle de Jean Charles Band of the Biloxi-
19 Chitimacha Confederation of Muskogeas ("BCCM"), the Bayou Lafourche Band of the
20 BCCM, the Grand Caillou/Dulac Band of the BCCM, known collectively as the "BCCM
21 Tribes" and the Points-au-Chien Indian Tribe are no less, if not indeed greater, than those of
22 other Indian tribes in the United States, and, therefore, to take such executive or
23 congressional action as may be appropriate.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution also be transmitted to
25 the president of the United States, the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of
26 Representatives of the Congress of the United States, each member of the Louisiana
27 Congressional delegation, the director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, United States
28 Department of the Interior, and to the leadership of the Isle de Jean Charles Band of the
29 Biloxi-Chitimacha Confederation of Muskogeas ("BCCM"), the Bayou Lafourche Band of
30 the BCCM, the Grand Caillou/Dulac Band of the BCCM, and the Pointe-au-Chien Tribe.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Camille A. Sebastien.

DIGEST

Formally recognizes the Isle de Jean Charles Band of the Biloxi-Chitimacha Confederation of Muskogees ("BCCM"), the Bayou Lafourche Band of the BCCM, the Grand Caillou/Dulac Band of the BCCM, known collectively as the "BCCM Tribes" and the Points-au-Chien Indian Tribe by the Legislature of Louisiana and memorializes the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs to formally recognize them and take such congressional and executive action as may be appropriate.