



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 Pointe-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 Pointe-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 Pointe-au-Chien Indian community and members of the BCCM  
29 maintained separate communities despite being part of the United Houma Nation and in 1993,

1 the Pointe-au-Chien Indian community filed separate Articles of Incorporation; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 and

2 WHEREAS, the policy of the state of Louisiana provides for recognition of Indian  
3 tribes within its borders, to support their tribal aspirations, to preserve their cultural heritage  
4 and improve their economic condition and to assist them in the achievement of their just  
5 rights; and

6 WHEREAS, unless these tribes are either formally recognized by the state during this  
7 regular session of the Legislature, or the members of these tribes have their Indian ancestry  
8 reacknowledged by the state, more federal Indian education funds will be lost in the parishes  
9 of Lafourche and Terrebonne.

10 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of Louisiana that the state of  
11 Louisiana formally reacknowledges the Indian ancestry of members of the Isle de Jean Charles  
12 Band of the Biloxi-Chitimacha Confederation of Muskogees ("BCCM"), the Bayou Lafourche  
13 Band of the BCCM, the Grand Caillou/Dulac Band of the BCCM, known collectively as the  
14 "BCCM Tribes" and the Pointe-au-Chien Indian Tribe for the sole purpose of qualifying for  
15 Indian education and health care benefits due these Native American citizens.

---

The original instrument was prepared by Camille A. Sebastien. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Tabitha Irvin-Gray.

---

Dupre (SCR 105)

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 Pointe-au-Chien Indian Tribe for the sole purpose of qualifying for Indian education and health care benefits due these Native American citizens by the Legislature of Louisiana.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs to the original bill.

1. Reaffirms the Indian ancestry of four individual tribes for the sole purpose of education and healthcare benefits due to those Native American citizens.
2. Deletes the recognition by the U.S. Congress and U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs.