

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2352

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

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 4, 2017

Mr. PITTENGER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

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,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Lumbee Recognition  
5 Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FEDERAL RECOGNITION.**

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

9               (1) by striking section 2;

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

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

5           “The Indians”;

6           (3) in the preamble—

7                   (A) by inserting before the first undesig-  
8           nated clause the following:

9 **“SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

10          “Congress finds that—”;

11                   (B) by designating the undesignated  
12           clauses as paragraphs (1) through (4), respec-  
13           tively, and indenting appropriately;

14                   (C) by striking “Whereas” each place it  
15           appears;

16                   (D) by striking “and” after the semicolon  
17           at the end of each of paragraphs (1) and (2)  
18           (as so designated); and

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

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

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

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

3   **“SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

4           “In this Act:

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

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

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

11   **“SEC. 4. FEDERAL RECOGNITION.**

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

15          “(b) APPLICABILITY OF LAWS.—All laws and regula-  
16          tions of the United States of general application to Indi-  
17          ans and Indian tribes shall apply to the Tribe and its  
18          members.

19          “(c) PETITION FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—Notwith-  
20          standing section 3, any group of Indians in Robeson and  
21          adjoining counties, North Carolina, whose members are  
22          not enrolled in the Tribe (as determined under section  
23          5(d)) may petition under part 83 of title 25 of the Code  
24          of Federal Regulations for acknowledgment of tribal exist-  
25          ence.

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

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

5 “(b) SERVICE AREA.—For the purpose of the delivery  
6 of Federal services and benefits described in subsection  
7 (a), those members of the Tribe residing in Robeson, Cum-  
8 berland, Hoke, and Scotland counties in North Carolina  
9 shall be deemed to be residing on or near an Indian res-  
10 ervation.

11 “(c) DETERMINATION OF NEEDS.—On verification  
12 by the Secretary of a tribal roll under subsection (d), the  
13 Secretary and the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-  
14 ices shall—

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

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

20 “(d) TRIBAL ROLL.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of the de-  
22 livery of Federal services and benefits described in  
23 subsection (a), the tribal roll in effect on the date  
24 of enactment of this section shall, subject to  
25 verification by the Secretary, define the service pop-  
26 ulation of the Tribe.

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

4                   “(A) be limited to confirming compliance  
5                   with the membership criteria set out in the con-  
6                   stitution of the Tribe adopted on November 16,  
7                   2001; and

8                   “(B) be completed not later than 2 years  
9                   after the date of enactment of this section.

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

11           “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may take into  
12           trust for the benefit of the Tribe land of the Tribe.

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

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

20           “(a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to land located  
21           within the State of North Carolina that is owned by, or  
22           held in trust by the United States for the benefit of, the  
23           Tribe, or any dependent Indian community of the Tribe,  
24           the State of North Carolina shall exercise jurisdiction  
25           over—

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

3           “(2) all civil actions that arise.

4           “(b) TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION.—

5           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),  
6           the Secretary may accept on behalf of the United  
7           States, after consulting with the Attorney General of  
8           the United States, any transfer by the State of  
9           North Carolina to the United States of any portion  
10          of the jurisdiction of the State of North Carolina de-  
11          scribed in subsection (a) pursuant to an agreement  
12          between the Tribe and the State of North Carolina.

13          “(2) RESTRICTION.—A transfer of jurisdiction  
14          described in paragraph (1) may not take effect until  
15          2 years after the effective date of the agreement de-  
16          scribed in that paragraph.

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

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