Bill Analysis of H.R. 27: The Lumbee Recognition Act

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MEMO

To: Congressman Dan Benishek, Member of House Committee on Natural Resources
From: Jess Averill, Legislative Aid: Natural Resources, HHS
Subject: Bill Analysis H.R. 27, The Lumbee Recognition Act

The Lumbee Recognition Act
H.R. 27
Introduced 1/5/2011
Mike McIntyre (NC-7-D)
118 Cosponsors, heavily Democratic, Blue Dog dominated

Purpose

To grant federal recognition of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina and to grant rights of full entitlement to its members of services and benefits. The Secretary of the Interior/ Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) gains right to take land into trust for the tribe. Tribe would not be allowed to conduct gaming activity. Also grants the State of North Carolina the proper jurisdiction over tribal lands in the case of criminal offenses and civil actions.

(a) Federal recognition of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina and all laws and regulation of the U.S. apply to the tribe and its members.

(b) Any other tribes or member not a part of the Lumbee Tribe in surrounding counties of North Carolina have the ability to petition through the BIA for federal recognition.

(c) Members of the Lumbee Tribe shall be eligible for the services and benefits provided by the federal government. Distribution of these benefits will be in Robeson County, North Carolina and three surrounding countries of North Carolina with the greatest population of members and therefore shall be deemed to be living on or near an Indian reservation.

(d) The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Health and Human Services will assess the needs of the tribe and will submit a written statement to Congress, after the tribe's membership roll is determined.

Written for Dr. Erik Trump's PS 325 Native American Politics
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