(e) Membership/population of the tribe shall be verified within two years of passage of this Bill. The Secretary of the Interior shall define the population based on the membership criteria of the Tribe as stated in its constitution.
(f) The Secretary of the Interior shall take land into trust on behalf of the Lumbee Tribe, for purpose of a reservation, in Robeson County, North Carolina.
(g) Prohibits the Tribe from conducting gaming activities. Tribe will not receive any gaming rights under the Indian Gaming Regulation Act.
(h) Grants the State of North Carolina rights to exercise jurisdiction over criminal offenses and civil actions on any land held in trust for the Tribe by the U.S. or any land owned by an individual of the Tribe.
(i) The State and Attorney General of the State must be notified and in compliance of any transfer of land to the Tribe, and this cannot be effective until two years after the passage of this Bill.
(j) This proposal does not have any effect of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978.
(k) The Tribe is to be appropriated "such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act" (Library of Congress)

History

First introduced in 101st Congress, in both the House and Senate. H.R. 2335, introduced by Rep. Charlie Rose (NC-7-D) 5/11/1989 with 11 cosponsors, was placed on Union Calendar. S.901, introduced by Sen. Terry Sanford on 5/3/1989 with 0 cosponsors, was read twice and sent to the Committee on Indian Affairs. Bills supporting Lumbee tribal recognition have been introduced in both chambers twelve other times as follows:

- 102nd Congress, H.R. 1426, introduced by Rep. Rose on 3/13/1991 with 20 cosponsors, passed to the Senate.
- 102nd Congress, S. 103, introduced by Sen. Sanford on 5/9/1991 with 6 cosponsors, referred to Committee on Indian Affairs.
- 103rd Congress, H.R. 334, introduced by Rep. Rose on 1/5/1993 with 18 cosponsors, passed to the Senate.
- 103rd Congress, Senate revised H.R. 334 and placed it on the Legislative Calendar under general orders.
- 104th Congress, H.R. 3810, introduced by Rep. Rose on 7/12/1996 with no cosponsors, referred to the subcommittee on Native American and Insular Affairs.
- 108th Congress, H.R. 898, introduced by Rep. Mike McIntyre (NC-7-D) on 2/25/2003 with 237 cosponsors, referred to hearing.
- 108th Congress, S. 420, introduced by Sen. Elizabeth Dole (NC-R) on 2/14/2003 with 15 cosponsors, placed on the Legislative Calendar under general orders.

- 109th Congress, H.R. 21, introduced by Rep. McIntyre on 1/4/2005 with 211 cosponsors, referred to the House Resources Committee.
- 109th Congress, S. 660, introduced by Sen. Dole on 3/17/2005 with 2 cosponsors, placed on the Legislative Calendar under general orders.
- 110th Congress, H.R. 65, introduced by Rep. McIntyre on 1/4/2007 with 215 cosponsors, passed to the Senate.
- 110th Congress, S. 333, introduced by Sen. Dole on 1/18/2007 with 3 cosponsors, referred to Committee on Indian Affairs.
- 111th Congress, H.R. 31, introduced by Rep. McIntyre on 1/6/2009 with 185 cosponsors, passed to the Senate.
- 111th Congress, S. 1735, introduced by Sen. Richard Burn (NC-R) on 10/1/2009 with 1 cosponsor, placed on the Legislative Calendar under general orders.

(Library of Congress)

Supporters' Arguments

The Tribe was unjustly denied recognition in the past and then schemed into termination.

The Lumbee Tribe has been seeking the right of recognition for the past one hundred and twenty years (Goins). This bill has gone through the legislative process many times over, and has gained enough support to be passed by the House four times (102nd, 103rd, 110th, 111th Congresses), but ultimately dies in the Senate. However, for it to continually gain support proves there is justice being denied to these people and their loyal supporters. This tribe has faced challenges since the 1930s, when the IRA could not conclude the Tribe's legitimacy, due to not determining the bloodline of a portion of the members. The most apparent reason for oppression is the lack of motivation from the BIA in wanting to provide money or services. During the era of termination, the Tribe fell victim to legislation that dissolved their formal recognition as a Tribe; in this legislation (1956) the Tribe received recognition and then was instantly terminated. President Nixon condemned termination and called Indians the "most deprived and most isolated minority group in our nation," as he stated in a letter to Congress (Nixon). This Tribe has been through decades of striving for federal recognition, and as stated by Rep. Mike McIntyre, "justice delayed is justice denied" (Senate Hearing on H.R. 31). Members of Congress who are committed to correcting the ill justice faced by denying this Tribe their inherent and proven right to recognition are the dominant supporters of this arguments, fueled by the drive of the diligent Lumbee people.

Federal recognition of the Lumbee Tribe will correct the injustice of the oppression and discrimination that over 55,000 people are enduring.