

HOUSE BILL 2055

By Hardaway

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4,  
relative to recognition of Native American Indian  
Tribes, Bands, Groups and Associations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, is amended by adding Sections 2 through 6 of this act as a new, appropriately designated chapter:

SECTION 2. The general assembly hereby extends state recognition with full legal rights and protections to certain Indian-descended entities that have functioned in specific ways over time.

SECTION 3. An Indian tribe, band, or group is a population of people related to one another by blood through their Native American Indian ancestry and tracing their heritage to a Native American Indian tribe, band, or group indigenous to Tennessee. Petitioners must submit a petition requesting state recognition specifying the type of recognition sought.

SECTION 4. In order to be recognized as a tribe, band, or group, the petitioner must present a list of members of the group along with proof that each of its members is a descendant recognized as a member of a historical Tennessee tribe, band, or group by means of rolls which are compiled by the federal government or some other compelling documentation that shows their heritage. In addition a statement with the notarized signatures of the three (3) highest ranking officers of the petitioning group is required.

SECTION 5. The general assembly hereby appoints the Confederation of Tennessee Native Tribes as the entity that shall review and present for recognition any tribes, bands, and groups which seek such recognition.

(1) The Confederation of Tennessee Native Tribes is the formation of the Tribes and Clans of Native American Indians across the state who have joined together in one voice to represent the well-being of the Native American Indian in Tennessee; and

(2) The Confederation of Tennessee Native Tribes is comprised of the Remnant Yuchi Nation, the Upper Cumberland Cherokee, the Chikamaka-Cherokee Band of the South Cumberland Plateau, the Central Band of Cherokee, the Cherokee Wolf Clan, the Tanasi Council of the Faraway Cherokee, the Native Cultural Council and the American Indian Association of Millington.

SECTION 6. The general assembly recognizes for purposes of state Native American Indian recognition with full legal rights and protections the following tribes, bands and groups:

Remnant Yuchi Nation -

Counties: Sullivan, Carter, Greene, Hawkins, Unicoi, Johnson, and Washington;

Upper Cumberland Cherokee (also known as the United Eastern Lenape Nation) -

Counties: Scott, Morgan, Fentress, and Campbell;

Chikamaka-Cherokee Band of the South Cumberland Plateau -

Counties: Franklin, Grundy, Marion, Sequatchie, Warren, and Coffee;

Central Band of Cherokee (also known as the Cherokee of Lawrence County) -

1806 Congressional Reservation;

Cherokee Wolf Clan -

Counties: Carroll, Benton, Decatur, Henderson, Henry, Weakley, Gibson, and

Madison; and

Tanasi Council of the Far Away Cherokee -

Counties: Shelby, Dyer, Gibson, Humphreys, and Perry.

SECTION 7. The department of environment and conservation is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.