

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE DRS65039-LL-59 (2/9)

Short Title: Amend Meherrin Tribe Name. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Jones.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO CHANGE THE STATE-RECOGNIZED NAME OF THE MEHERRIN
TRIBE TO THE MEHERRIN-CHOWANOKE NATION, IN ORDER TO
RECOGNIZE THE HISTORIC MERGER OF MEMBERS OF THE
CHOWANOKE TRIBE INTO THE MEHERRIN COMMUNITY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 71A-7.1 reads as rewritten:

"§ **71A-7.1.** ~~Meherrin Tribe~~ Meherrin-Chowanoke Nation of North Carolina;
rights, privileges, immunities, obligations and duties.

The Indians now residing in small communities in Hertford, Bertie, Gates, and Northampton Counties, who in 1726 were granted reservational lands at the mouth of the Meherrin River in the vicinity of present-day Parker's Ferry near Winton in Hertford County, and who are of the same linguistic stock as the Cherokee, Tuscarora, and other tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy of New York and Canada, shall, from and after July 20, 1971, be designated and officially recognized as the ~~Meherrin Tribe~~ Meherrin-Chowanoke Nation of North Carolina, and shall continue to enjoy all their rights, privileges, and immunities as citizens of the State as now or hereafter provided by law, and shall continue to be subject to all the obligations and duties of citizens under the law."

SECTION 2. G.S. 115C-210.1 reads as rewritten:

"§ **115C-210.1.** **Membership – How appointed.**

The Council shall consist of 15 members, as follows:

...

- (5) Indian members of the Council shall be broadly representative of North Carolina Indian tribes and organizations, specifically, the Eastern Band of Cherokee, Lumbee, Coharie, Waccamaw-Siouan, Haliwa Saponi, ~~Meherrin~~, Meherrin-Chowanoke Nation, Person

1 County Indians, Cumberland County Association for Indian People,
2 the Guilford Native American Association, the Metrolina Native
3 American Association, and any other Indian tribe gaining State
4 recognition in the future."

5 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 143B-407(a) reads as rewritten:

6 "(a) The State Commission of Indian Affairs shall consist of two persons
7 appointed by the General Assembly, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the
8 Director of the State Employment Security Commission, the Secretary of
9 Administration, the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, the
10 Commissioner of Labor or their designees and 21 representatives of the Indian
11 community. These Indian members shall be selected by tribal or community consent
12 from the Indian groups that are recognized by the State of North Carolina and are
13 principally geographically located as follows: the Coharie of Sampson and Harnett
14 Counties; the Eastern Band of Cherokees; the Haliwa Saponi of Halifax, Warren, and
15 adjoining counties; the Lumbees of Robeson, Hoke and Scotland Counties; the
16 ~~Meherrin~~ Meherrin-Chowanoke Nation of Hertford County; the Waccamaw-Siouan
17 from Columbus and Bladen Counties; the Sappony; the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi
18 Nation of Alamance and Orange Counties, and the Native Americans located in
19 Cumberland, Guilford, Johnston, Mecklenburg, Orange, and Wake Counties. The
20 Coharie shall have two members; the Eastern Band of Cherokees, two; the Haliwa
21 Saponi, two; the Lumbees, three; the ~~Meherrin~~, Meherrin-Chowanoke Nation, one; the
22 Waccamaw-Siouan, two; the Sappony, one; the Cumberland County Association for
23 Indian People, two; the Guilford Native Americans, two; the Metrolina Native
24 Americans, two; the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, one, the Triangle Native
25 American Society, one. Of the two appointments made by the General Assembly, one
26 shall be made upon the recommendation of the Speaker, and one shall be made upon
27 recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Appointments by the
28 General Assembly shall be made in accordance with G.S. 120-121 and vacancies shall
29 be filled in accordance with G.S. 120-122."

30 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.