

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2003

HOUSE BILL 355  
RATIFIED BILL

AN ACT TO OFFICIALLY DESIGNATE THE INDIANS PREVIOUSLY  
RECOGNIZED IN THE GENERAL STATUTES AS THE INDIANS OF PERSON  
COUNTY AS SAPPONY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 71A-7 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 71A-7. ~~Indians of Person County; The Sappony; rights, privileges, immunities, obligations, and duties.~~**

The Indian Tribe now residing in Person County, officially recognized as the Indians of Person County by Chapter 22 of the Public-Local Laws of 1913, ~~The Indians~~ who are descendants of those Indians living in Person County for whom the High Plains Indian School was established, shall, from and after ~~July 20, 1971, February 3, 1913,~~ be designated and officially recognized as ~~the Indians of Person County, North Carolina, Sappony,~~ 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. 143B-407(a) reads as rewritten:

**"§ 143B-407. North Carolina State Commission of Indian Affairs – membership; term of office; chairman; compensation.**

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

**SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.  
In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of  
May, 2003.

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Marc Basnight  
President Pro Tempore of the Senate

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Richard T. Morgan  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

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Michael F. Easley  
Governor

Approved \_\_\_\_\_m. this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003