



NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

**University of Arizona
State Recognition Presentation
September 17, 2020**



NC Commission of Indian Affairs

- Created under NC GS 143B-404 in 1971, by NC General Assembly
- The Commission is housed within the NC Department of Administration, in Raleigh, North Carolina



Commission's Statutory

Purposes

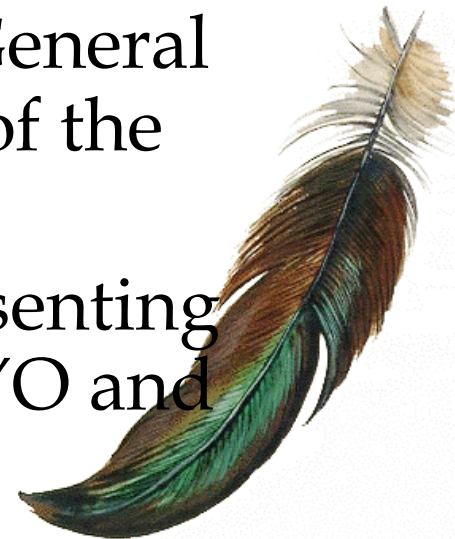
(NC GS 143B-405)

- To deal fairly and effectively with Indians
- To bring local, state, and federal resources into the state
- To provide aid and protection as needs are demonstrated
- To prevent undue hardships, etc.
- To educate state citizens about American Indians



Commission Membership (NCGS 143B-407)

- **Thirty Members**
- **Twenty-One Indian Members** representing Indian Tribes and Associations
- **Five State Officials** serve on Commission by virtue of their elected or appointed office in state government
- **Two members** appointed by the NC General Assembly (President Senate/Speaker of the House)
- **Two ex-officio Youth Members** representing Indian student organizations (NCNAYO and NCNACOHE)



State Recognized Tribes In North Carolina

Eight (8) State Recognized Tribes

Ref: Chapter 71A, NC GS

Tribes Seated on Commission (NCGS 143B-407)

Tribes (8)

- **Coharie**
- **Eastern Band of the Cherokee**
- **Haliwa-Saponi**
- **Sappony**
- **Lumbee Tribe of NC**
- **Meherrin**
- **Waccamaw-Siouan**
- **Occaneechi Band of Saponi Nation**

Primary Geographic Counties

- Harnett & Sampson
- Graham, Jackson, Swain
(Federally Recognized)
- Halifax & Warren
- Person
- Hoke, Robeson and Scotland
- Hertford
- Bladen & Columbus
- Alamance and
Orange



Associations Seated on Commission

Associations (4)

- **Cumberland County Association for Indian People**
- **Guilford Native American Association**
- **Metrolina Native American Association**
- **Triangle Native American Society**

Primary Geographic Area

- Cumberland County
- Guilford County
- Mecklenburg County
- Wake



North Carolina's American Population

122,000 - 2010 US Census
(American Indian Alone)

Population in Combination with others
183,000 plus-

Source 2010 US Census

Federally Recognized Tribes in North Carolina

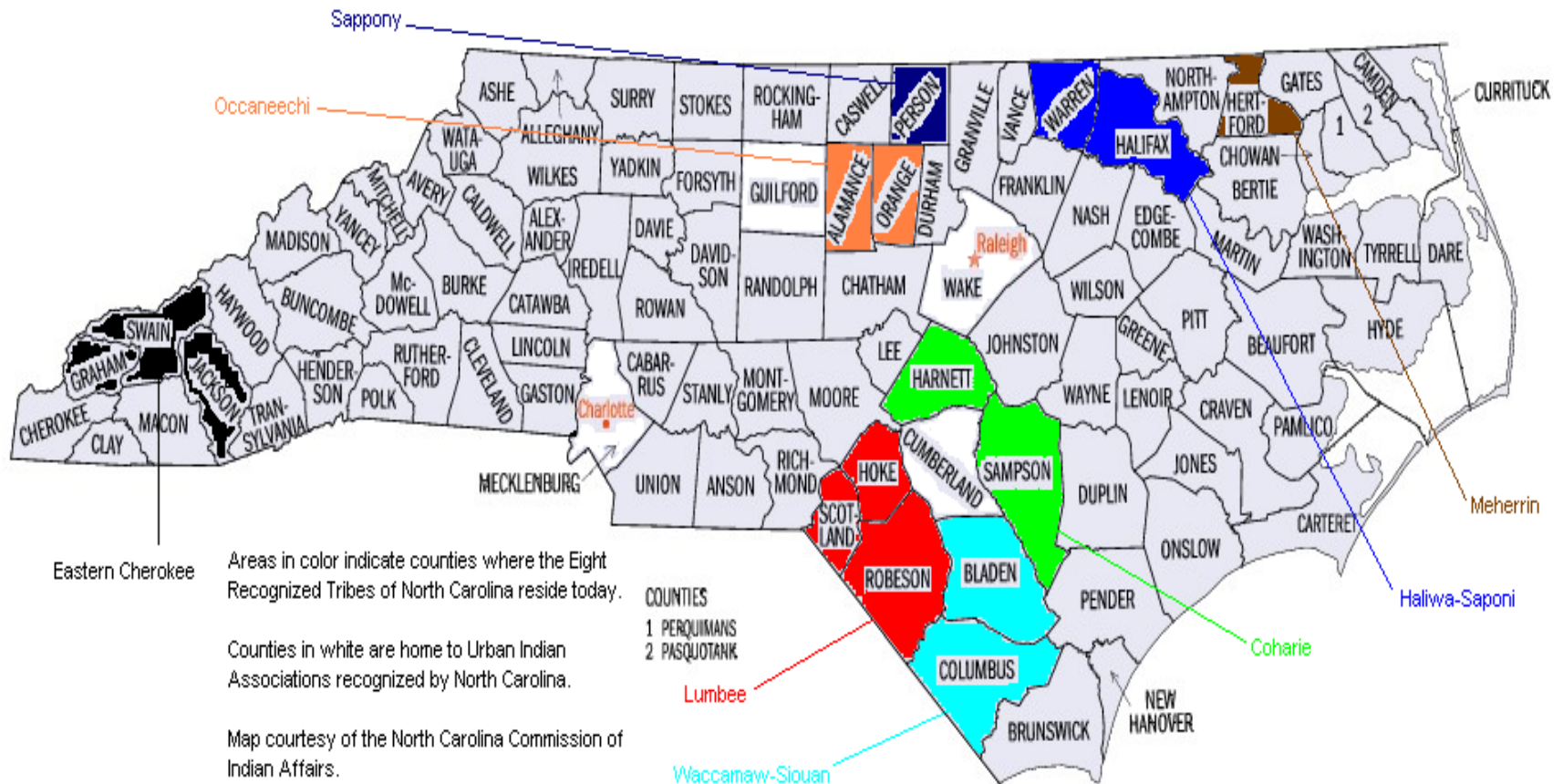
1 Eastern Band of Cherokee

1 Tribe has Quasi Federal Recognition

Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina

Lumbee Act of 1956

Snapshot of North Carolina's Tribal Communities



State Recognized Tribes in United States

**63 State Recognized Tribes in the United
States**

(Representing in 11 States)

Tribal Membership on Commission

- Tribes elect or appoint members to the Commission
- Tribes determine how members are Elected or appointed, not the Governor, not the General Assembly etc.

Federally Recognized Tribes in United States

**573 Federally Recognized Tribes
in the United States**

Things to know about American Indians/Tribes

There are three legal categories of Indian Tribes in the United States:

- **Federally Recognized Tribes**
- **State Recognized Tribes**
- **Un-Recognized Indian Groups/Tribe**

Tribal Sovereignty

- Indian tribes are sovereign, tribes determine their own form of government, membership, geographic area etc.
- The US Constitution recognizes Indian tribes, foreign nations and states as sovereign entities.
- Additionally, tribal sovereignty is referenced in many treaties, Presidential Executive Orders, etc.



Examples of Legislation Impacting State Tribes - North Carolina

- NC Commission of Indian Affairs -1972
- Indian Gaming Compact - Cherokee Tribe
- State Recognition
- NC Indian Housing Authority-Indian Housing
- State Advisory Council on Indian Education (SACIE)
- Indian Child Welfare



State Recognition

- NCGS 143B-406 (9)
- Authorizes the NC Commission of Indian Affairs to establish procedures governing state recognition



State Recognition - NC

- Authorizes tribes to define tribal territory.
- Authorizes tribes to elect or appoint a member to the Commission and other agencies
- Extends authority to tribes to compete for state and federal Indian set-aside funding
- Enhances a tribe's Government-to-Government relationship with the State and Federal government



Federal Government Programs Authorized For State Recognized Indians

- US Department of Labor (WIOA, Section 166-477) – USDOL Set Aside Program
- Native American Housing and Self Determination Act - HUD Set Aside Program (NAHASDA)
- US Department of Education (Title VI- Indian Education Program)



Programs Administered by the Commission

- Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA, Section 166)
- Community Development
- Supporting Undergraduate Native Students (SUNS)
- Section 8 Housing Rent Assistance
- Indian Child Welfare
- Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault



State Government and Indian Tribes

- States Can Recognize Indian Tribes
- States Can Establish Procedures for the Recognition of Tribes.
- State General Assemblies can Grants Recognition to tribes

State General Assemblies can Establish an American Indian Caucus.



Other Examples of legislation which Impact NC Indians

- Unmarked Human Burial and Human Skeletal Remains Protection Act
 - North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 70, Article 3
 - Violation of the provisions of G.S. 70-37(a) is a Class H felony
 - No person may excavate, remove, damage or otherwise alter or deface any archaeological resource located on state lands without a permit.

Question and Answers

- Are American Indians US Citizens?
- How many federally recognized tribes are located in the US?
- How many state recognized tribes are located in North Carolina?
- Does each tribe have a distinct heritage, language, culture?
- What is an American Indian Pow-wow?

Questions and Answers

- Do you refer to American Indians as “Native American” or American Indian”
- Is it appropriate to refer to your American Indian friend as “Chief”
- Is it appropriate to use American Indian stereotypes/Mascots/Costumes ?
- Is it appropriate to refer to an American Indian Woman as Pocahontas?



NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Gregory A. Richardson
Executive Director

Mailing Address: 1317 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1317

Physical Address: 116 West Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27603

Phone: (984)236-0161

Fax: (984) 236-0185

Email: greg.richardson@doa.nc.gov

Web Address: www.doa.nc.gov/cia

