

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 227

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

INDIAN AFFAIRS: Recognizes the Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana as an Indian tribe of the state

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To recognize the Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana as an Indian tribe.

3 WHEREAS, the Indian Removal Act of 1830 forced many Indians living east of the
4 Mississippi River to sell their lands and move to less fertile lands on a Western reservation
5 that would not be taken from them; and

6 WHEREAS, the five tribes most affected by the Indian Removal Act of 1830 through
7 the loss of lives, homes, and land were the Chickasaw, Creek, Choctaw, Seminole, and
8 Cherokee; and

9 WHEREAS, the Indian Removal Act of 1830 caused Indians living in the South to
10 embark on what became known as the "Trail of Tears" from 1830 to 1842; and

11 WHEREAS, as a result of the Indian Removal Act of 1830, many small groups of
12 the five tribes escaped and crossed the Mississippi River into Louisiana and settled near the
13 central and western part of Louisiana in the present-day parishes of Rapides, Vernon,
14 Natchitoches, and Calcasieu, which was referred to as "No Man's Land" or "Rio Hondo"; and

15 WHEREAS, the Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana exists today, and the tribe has full
16 documentation of bloodlines of all tribal members, as well as many documented sources
17 regarding the activities of the tribe; and

18 WHEREAS, it is imperative that the state of Louisiana recognize Indian tribes within
19 its borders, to support their tribal aspirations, to preserve their cultural heritage and improve
20 their economic conditions, and to assist them in the achievement of their just rights.

1 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
2 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana as an
3 Indian tribe of the state.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress of the United States and the United
5 States Bureau of Indian Affairs are hereby memorialized, requested, and urged to take such
6 steps as are necessary to effect the formal recognition of the Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana
7 as an Indian tribe, and to acknowledge that the rights of the Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana
8 are no less than those of other Indian tribes in the United States, and, accordingly, to take
9 such executive or congressional action as may be appropriate.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the
11 president of the United States, the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of
12 Representatives of the Congress of the United States, each member of the Louisiana
13 congressional delegation, and the director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, United States
14 Department of the Interior.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 227 Original

2017 Regular Session

Cox

Recognizes the Natchitoches Tribe of La. as an Indian tribe.

Memorializes congress to take necessary steps to effect formal recognition of the Natchitoches Tribe of La. as an Indian tribe, and to acknowledge that the rights of the Natchitoches Tribe of La. are no less than other Indian tribes in the U.S.