

SENATE, No. 3640

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 19, 2021

Sponsored by:
Senator ROBERT W. SINGER
District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Co-Sponsored by:
Senator Singleton

SYNOPSIS

Provides State recognition of Sandhill Indian Tribe for certain limited purposes.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning State recognition of the Sandhill Indian Tribe for
2 certain limited purposes and supplementing Title 52 of the
3 Revised Statutes.

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5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

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8 1. a. The State of New Jersey officially recognizes the Sandhill
9 Indian Tribe of Neptune, New Jersey as an American Indian Tribe
10 for the limited purpose of assisting the tribe in: establishing
11 eligibility for federal education, job training, and housing benefits
12 and federal protection for the sale of artwork; qualifying for public
13 and private grants for which Indian tribes or groups, or members
14 thereof, may be eligible; protecting the ability of the tribe and its
15 members to engage in traditional religious practices and ceremonies;
16 preserving and protecting burial sites and artifacts; and ensuring that
17 handicrafts made by tribal members may be sold as “Indian made.”

18 b. Nothing in this section shall be construed or interpreted as
19 conferring recognition for any purpose except as expressly stated in
20 subsection a. of this section, or as evidence that a tribe has a State
21 compact or State approval for the purposes of the federal “Indian
22 Gaming Regulatory Act,” 25 U.S.C. s.2701 et seq. The limited State
23 recognition accorded to the tribe named in subsection a. of this
24 section shall not be construed to affect in any way a tribe or group’s
25 case for federal recognition, shall not confer the right upon any tribe,
26 group, or individual to conduct gambling of any kind or to engage in
27 the sale of motor fuels or tobacco, and shall not constitute an
28 acknowledgement of any claim by any tribe, group, or individual to
29 any ancestral, tribal or other public or private lands.

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31 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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36 This bill provides that the State of New Jersey officially
37 recognizes the Sandhill Indian Tribe as an American Indian Tribe for
38 the limited purpose of assisting the tribe in: establishing eligibility
39 for federal education, job training, and housing benefits and federal
40 protection for the sale of artwork; qualifying for public and private
41 grants for which Indian tribes or groups, or members thereof, may be
42 eligible; protecting the ability to engage in traditional religious
43 practices and ceremonies and to preserve and protect burial sites and
44 artifacts; and ensuring that handicrafts made by tribal members may
45 be sold as “Indian made.”

46 Under the bill, its provisions would not be construed as conferring
47 recognition for any other purpose or used as evidence that a tribe has
48 a State compact or State approval for the purposes of the federal

1 “Indian Gaming Regulatory Act,” or to engage in the sale of motor
2 fuels or tobacco. The limited State recognition accorded to the tribe
3 would not be construed to affect in any way a tribe or group’s case
4 for federal recognition, confer the right upon any tribe, group, or
5 individual to conduct gambling of any kind, or constitute an
6 acknowledgement of any claim by any tribe, group, or individual to
7 any ancestral, tribal or other public or private lands.