

**SENATE CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 123(STA)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**Offered: 5/13/22**

**Referred: Today's Calendar**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES ZULKOSKY, Kreiss-Tomkins, Drummond, Spohnholz, Fields, Tarr, Ortiz, Snyder, Story, Foster, Schrage, Vance, Patkotak, Hannan, Hopkins, Josephson**

**SENATORS Begich, Gray-Jackson, Olson, Wielechowski, Kiehl, Kawasaki, Stevens, Bishop, Stedman, von Imhof, Hoffman, Revak, Hughes, Holland, Micciche**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act providing for state recognition of federally recognized tribes; and providing for**  
2 **an effective date."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 \* **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section  
5 to read:

6 LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT. (a) The history of tribes in the state  
7 predates the United States and predates territorial claims to land in the state by both the  
8 United States and Imperial Russia. Indigenous people have inhabited land in the state for  
9 multiple millennia, since time immemorial or before mankind marked the passage of time.

10 (b) It is the intent of the legislature to exercise the legislature's constitutional policy-  
11 making authority and acknowledge through formal recognition the federally recognized tribes  
12 in the state. Passage of this Act is nothing more or less than a recognition of tribes' unique  
13 role in the state's past, present, and future.

14 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 01 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

1 **Chapter 15. State-Tribal Relations.**

2 **Sec. 01.15.100. Recognition of tribes.** The state recognizes the special and  
 3 unique relationship between the United States government and federally recognized  
 4 tribes in the state. The state recognizes all tribes in the state that are federally  
 5 recognized under 25 U.S.C. 5130 and 5131. Nothing in this section diminishes the  
 6 United States government's trust responsibility or other obligations to federally  
 7 recognized tribes in the state or creates a concurrent trust relationship between the  
 8 state and federally recognized tribes. In this section, "federally recognized tribe" has  
 9 the meaning given in AS 23.20.520.

10 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 23.20.520(13) is amended to read:

11 (13) "federally recognized tribe"

12 (A) means a tribe that is recognized by the United States  
 13 Secretary of the Interior to exist as an Indian tribe under **25 U.S.C. 5131** [25  
 14 U.S.C. 479A] (Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994);

15 (B) includes any subdivision, subsidiary, or business enterprise  
 16 wholly owned by a federally recognized tribe;

17 \* **Sec. 4.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).