

S 462

Tribal Acknowledgment and Indian Bureau Enhancement Act of 2003

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Native Americans

Introduced: Feb 26, 2003

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs. (Feb 26, 2003)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/senate-bill/462>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Dodd, Christopher J. [D-CT]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CT • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Lieberman, Joseph I. [D-CT]	D · CT		Feb 26, 2003

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Indian Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 27, 2003

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Native Americans

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Feb 26, 2003)

Tribal Acknowledgment and Indian Bureau Enhancement Act of 2003 - Requires any Indian group in the continental United States that desires to be acknowledged as an Indian tribe to submit to the Secretary of the Interior a letter of intent in advance of or with its documented petition to substantiate claims of continuous existence as an Indian tribe.

Requires the Secretary to: (1) publish at least every three years a list of all Indian tribes entitled to receive services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs; (2) make guidelines available for, and provide advice on, the preparation of documented petitions; and (3) consider the criteria for acknowledgment to be met upon determining that it is more likely than not that the evidence presented demonstrates that the petitioner has met each mandatory criterion.

Specifies the requirements of a petition for acknowledgment.

Sets forth the mandatory criteria for Federal acknowledgment, including evidence that: (1) the group has been identified as an American Indian group on a substantially continuous basis since 1900; (2) a predominant portion of the group has composed a distinct community throughout the historical period; and (3) the petitioner has maintained political influence and authority over its members as an autonomous entity throughout the historical period.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 26, 2003:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 26, 2003:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S2863-2865)
- **Feb 26, 2003:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.