HLS 09RS-1477 **ORIGINAL**

Regular Session, 2009

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 74

BY REPRESENTATIVE FRANKLIN

INDIAN AFFAIRS: Recognizes the Atakapas-Ishak Tribe of Southwest Louisiana as an Indian tribe of Louisiana

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize the Atakapas-Ishak Tribe of Southwest Louisiana as an Indian tribe of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Indian communities of the Atakapas-Ishak Tribe of Southwest Louisiana have existed in Southwest Louisiana since prehistoric times according to the finding of Gatschet and Swanton, who were the late 1800s ethnologists of the Smithsonian Institute; and

WHEREAS, Europeans' earliest contact with the bands in Southwest Louisiana can be traced back to the Spaniards in the 1600s who gave them the name Atakapas over the objection of the tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Smithsonian Institute ethnologists learned in 1885 that the people's true name throughout history is Ishak; and

WHEREAS, the tribe of modern times has adopted a compound name to reflect Atakapas for its wide recognition and their true name Ishak; and

WHEREAS, modern research has shown that members of the Atakapas-Ishak Tribe of Southwest Louisiana have maintained their language and culture first identified in 1885 as that of the Atakapas; and

WHEREAS, modern research has shown that members of the tribe yet inhabit their old homeland in Southwest Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, the descendants of the Atakapas-Ishak Tribe of Southwest Louisiana formed a tribal council to keep the people focused on the Native American racial identity; and

WHEREAS, the Atakapas-Ishak Tribe of Southwest Louisiana has a richly accomplished and promising native culture; and

WHEREAS, members of the Atakapas-Ishak Tribe of Southwest Louisiana have served the United States in all of its wars; and

WHEREAS, members of the Atakapas-Ishak Tribe of Southwest Louisiana have been good citizens and have contributed to the state of Louisiana for over three centuries; and

WHEREAS, the policy of the state of Louisiana provides for recognition of Indian tribes within its borders to support their tribal aspirations, to preserve their cultural heritage, to improve their economic condition, and to assist them in the achievement of their just rights.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of Louisiana that the state of Louisiana formally recognizes the Atakapas-Ishak Tribe of Southwest Louisiana as an Indian tribe of the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the leadership of the Atakapas-Ishak Tribe of Southwest Louisiana.

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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)]

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