



## **HO-CHUNK NATION LEGISLATURE**

*Governing Body of the Ho-Chunk Nation*

### **HO-CHUNK NATION LEGISLATURE FORMATION OF LEGISLATIVE WORKGROUP TO ESTABLISH A HO-CHUNK NATION EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAM**

#### **RESOLUTION 04-21-15S**

**WHEREAS,** on November 1, 1994, the United States Secretary of Interior approved a new Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation, formerly known as the Wisconsin Winnebago Nation; and

**WHEREAS,** the Ho-Chunk Nation ("Nation") is a federally recognized Indian Tribe, organized pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934; and

**WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(a) of the Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation grants the Legislature the authority to make laws, including codes, ordinances, resolutions, and statutes; and

**WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(b) of the Constitution authorizes the Legislature to establish Executive Departments, and to delegate legislative powers to the Executive branch to be administered by such Departments, in accordance with the law; any Department established by the Legislature shall be administered by the Executive; the Legislature reserves the power to review any action taken by virtue of such delegated power; and

**WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(d) of the Constitution allows the Legislature to authorize expenditures by law and appropriate funds to the various Departments in an annual budget; and

**WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(r) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to protect and foster Ho-Chunk religious freedom, culture, language, and traditions; and

**WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(s) of the Constitution authorizes the Legislature to promote public health, education, charity, and such other services as may contribute to the social advancement of the members of the Ho-Chunk Nation; and

#### **Executive Offices**

W9814 Airport Road P.O. Box 667 Black River Falls, WI 54615  
(715) 284-9343 Fax (715) 284-3172 (800) 294-9343

- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(x) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to enact any other laws, ordinances, resolutions, and statutes necessary to exercise its legislative powers delegated by the General Council pursuant to Article III including but not limited to the foregoing list of powers; and
- WHEREAS,** the Ho-Chunk Nation *Legislative Organization Act*, 2 HCC § 11, (“LOA”) provides in that an internal Work Group or Task Force may be established in order to assist the Legislature by providing information necessary to carry out Legislative law-making and oversight functions; and
- WHEREAS,** the Nation’s *Open Meetings Act*, 2 HCC § 2, contemplates that a Work Group or Task Force will be used as a temporary, short-term ad hoc body established by a governmental entity for a focused effort on a specific issue; and
- WHEREAS,** the LOA does not restrict Legislator(s) participation in a Ho-Chunk government task force(s) as an ex officio member when appointed by the Legislature; and
- WHEREAS,** the Nation has operated, managed and funded a Head Start program for many years, in collaboration with the federal government and pursuant to Ho-Chunk guidelines and those under the Code of Federal Regulations; and
- WHEREAS,** the Nation’s Head Start program submits an annual budget for approval by the Legislature every fiscal year; and
- WHEREAS,** the Legislative Administration Committee convened a Special Meeting on April 20, 2015 to consider the proposed Education Department and Head Start program budget for the coming fiscal year; and
- WHEREAS,** at the Special Administration Committee meeting, there was discussion of the Head Start program, the population it serves, the intersection with the Ho-Chunk Language Program, and the possibility of managing a Ho-Chunk<sup>®</sup> Nation Early Education Program in the future; and
- WHEREAS,** the Administration Committee adopted a motion to refer to Legislative Counsel to draft a resolution for the formation of a Legislative Workgroup to establish a Ho-Chunk Nation Early Education Program for Legislative Session.



**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Legislature, pursuant to its authority under the Constitution and tribal law, hereby establishes the Ho-Chunk Nation Early Education Program Workgroup, consisting of: any interested Legislators, or other Legislative employees or staff designated by Legislators; and any Executive Branch employees or staff so authorized to participate; also, staff from the Nation's Education Department and Language Program; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the workgroup shall report on their activity and progress to the Legislature after each meeting; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the workgroup created herein shall not be considered a Public Body under the Nation's Open Meetings Act and shall be not be required to adhere to Quorum or meeting posting requirements; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Ho-Chunk Nation Early Education Program Workgroup is authorized to begin meeting after adoption of this resolution.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I, the undersigned, as Tribal Secretary of Ho-Chunk Nation, hereby certify that the Legislature of the Ho-Chunk Nation, composed of 13 members of whom 12 constituting a quorum were present at a meeting duly called and convened and held that on the **21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2015**, adopted the foregoing resolution at said meeting by an affirmative vote of 12 members, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining, pursuant to the Article V, Section 2(a) and (x) of the Constitution of the Ho-Chunk Nation approved by the Secretary of the Interior on November 1, 1994, and that the foregoing resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way. I further certify that this is a verified copy of said resolution.

Kathleen Lone Tree-Whiterabbit  
Kathleen Lone Tree-Whiterabbit, Tribal Secretary

4.21.15  
Date