

H.R. 2606: Stigler Act Amendments of 2018

The bill amends the Stigler Act of 1947 to remove the one-half blood quantum requirements for interests in certain allotted land maintained in restricted fee status for any member of the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma – Cherokee, Muscogee Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Seminole Tribes. Currently, interests in allotments may be sold, exchanged, and taxed when individuals of less than one-half degree Indian blood inherit them even though such individuals remain members of the Five Tribes.

- HR 2606, will created parity in federal law in the treatment of Indian allotted land by removing the minimum Indian blood degree for just the five tribes. In doing so, it would provide the opportunity for heirs and devisees to continue ownership and usage of the land while still maintaining the land's restricted status.
- The bill does not allow for un-restricted land to go back to restricted status. Once land becomes un-restricted, it is not able to return to its previous status. Additionally, the bill only addresses and affects tribes and lands within the State of Oklahoma.
- Restricted land is not subject to state taxation, and Federal Law does not require a minimum Native blood degree requirement for any other tribe.
- HR 2606, passed the House on suspension on December 19, 2018.
- CBO estimates that implementing the bill would have no federal cost, because the relevant land would remain privately owned whether it is held in restricted status or otherwise.