



HO-CHUNK NATION LEGISLATURE

Governing Body of the Ho-Chunk Nation

**HO-CHUNK NATION LEGISLATURE
EXCLUDING HO-CHUNK NATION ELDERS
INCREASE IN EMERGENCY ROOM CO-PAY
BY ONE-HUNDRED DOLLARS
RESOLUTION 12-22-09 A**

- WHEREAS,** on November 1, 1994, the Secretary of the Interior approved a new Constitution for the Ho-Chunk Nation, formerly known as the Wisconsin Winnebago Tribe; 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 ("Constitution") grants the Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature ("Legislature") the power to make laws, including codes, ordinances, resolutions, and statutes; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(d) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to authorize expenditures by law and appropriate funds to the various Departments in an annual budget; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(f) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to set the salaries, terms and conditions of employment for all government personnel; and
- WHEREAS,** Article V, Section 2(i) of the Constitution grants the Legislature the power to negotiate and enter into treaties, compacts, contracts, and agreements with other governments, organizations, or individuals; and
- WHEREAS,** the Ho-Chunk Nation offers health insurance to employees, their families and Ho-Chunk Nation Tribal Elders, and seeks to offer competitive health benefits; and
- WHEREAS,** the Ho-Chunk Nation seeks to improve the health of employees, their families and Ho-Chunk Nation Tribal Elders; and
- WHEREAS,** the Legislature has contracted with Cottingham & Butler Consulting Services as the Consultant for the Nation's Employee Benefits Insurance; and
- WHEREAS,** the Legislature held three meetings with Benjamin Butler, Vice President of Cottingham & Butler Consulting Services, to develop Wellness and Cost Savings Strategies for the Nation; and
- WHEREAS,** Mr. Butler made a number of recommendations and provided a hand-out entitled "Ho-Chunk Nation Wellness and Cost Savings Strategies December 2009" regarding wellness and cost savings strategies the Nation could use for its health insurance plan; and
- WHEREAS,** one recommendation, except for Ho-Chunk Nation elders, was to increase the emergency room co-pay responsibility by \$100.00 above current copays of non-tribal employees and tribal employees; and
- WHEREAS,** for purposes of the Ho-Chunk Nation Health Care Plan Document, a Ho-Chunk Nation Member is considered an elder when he or she reaches the age of 60; and

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WHEREAS, one substantial benefit of increasing the emergency room co-pay responsibility is that it will encourage employees to use available non-emergency care providers, which is substantially less expensive than emergency room care and is likely to increase the health of employees; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost savings of this change would provide:

- (a) for the non-tribal employee plan an annual \$100,000.00 to \$250,000.00 reduction in the cost of the Nation's health care expenses; and
- (b) for the tribal employee plan an annual \$90,000.00 to \$200,000.00 reduction in the cost of the Nation's health care expenses.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Legislature, pursuant to its Constitutional authority, except for Ho-Chunk Nation elders, increases the emergency room co-pay responsibility by \$100.00 above current copays of non-tribal employees and tribal employees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature, pursuant to its Constitutional authority, directs that this increase in co-pay responsibility shall be effective for all emergency room visits occurring on or after July 1, 2010.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Tribal Secretary for the 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 on the 22nd day of December, 2009, that the foregoing resolution was adopted at said meeting by an affirmative vote of 8 members, 3 opposed, and 1 abstaining, pursuant to the authority of 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 said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way. I further certify that this is a verified copy of said resolution.

Hope B. Smith
Hope B. Smith, Tribal Secretary

12-22-09
Date