

Tribal Endorsement of Utah Driver License Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: A. Cory Maloy

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE**Committee Note:**

The Judiciary Interim Committee recommended this bill.

Legislative Vote: 12 voting for 0 voting against 4 absent

General Description:

This bill allows an applicant for a driver license to request a notation on the driver license or identification card indicating that the individual is an enrolled member of a federally recognized Indian tribe.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- allows an applicant to request a notation of "Native American" on the driver license or identification card indicating that the individual is an enrolled member of a federally recognized Indian tribe;
- instructs the Driver License Division regarding satisfactory proof that an applicant is an enrolled member of a federally recognized Indian tribe; and
- prohibits the notation from identifying a specific Indian tribe.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

53-3-237, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **53-3-237** is enacted to read:

53-3-237 . Driver license notation of tribal membership.

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Bureau of Indian Affairs affidavit of birth" or "tribal affidavit of birth" means an affidavit of birth issued by the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs that includes:

(i) the individual's name;

(ii) the individual's date of birth; and

(iii) other identifying information.

(b) "Enhanced tribal card" means a tribal identification card that:

(i) is issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe;

(ii) meets the requirements established by the United States Department of Homeland Security for use as an acceptable document to denote identity and citizenship; and

(iii) includes enhanced security features.

(c) "Tribal certificate of Indian blood" means a certificate issued by the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs that:

(i) certifies the degree of Indian blood of an individual; and

(ii) verifies the individual's enrollment or eligibility for enrollment in a federally recognized Indian tribe.

(d) "Tribal identification card" means an identification card issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe that includes:

(i) the individual's name;

(ii) the individual's date of birth;

(iii) a photograph of the individual; and

(iv) the name of the issuing tribe.

(2) An applicant may, as part of the application process described in Section 53-3-205 or 53-3-804, request a notation on the applicant's individual license certificate or identification card indicating that the individual is an enrolled member of a federally recognized Indian tribe.

(3) The division shall accept the following as satisfactory proof that the applicant is an enrolled member of a federally recognized Indian tribe:

(a) an enhanced tribal card;

(b) a tribal identification card;

(c) a tribal certificate of Indian blood; or

(d) a tribal or Bureau of Indian Affairs affidavit of birth.

(4)(a) If the applicant provides satisfactory proof as described in Subsection (3), the division shall include on the individual's license certificate or identification card a

65 notation of "Native American."

66 (b) The notation may not identify a specific Indian tribe or other specific personal

67 information that is submitted on the documents that provide satisfactory proof that

68 the person is an enrolled member of a federally recognized Indian tribe.

69 Section 2. **Effective Date.**

70 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2026.