

HB 350 -- NATIVE AMERICAN CRAFTS

SPONSOR: Miller

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Special Committee on Small Business by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 11 to 1.

This bill prohibits the sale of Native American arts and crafts, and other goods represented as being Native American made, unless the arts and crafts are made by citizens or members of federally recognized Native American tribes. Any merchant who knowingly violates this provision shall be subject to a fine up to \$200 and 90 days in prison.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will ensure that art and crafts sold as "American Indian art" will be created by persons from a federally recognized tribe. This will prevent the appropriation of the American Indian culture by persons who do not share the authentic American Indian history.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Miller; Twila Barnes; Katherine Dickerson; and Kimberly Teehee, Cherokee Nation Businesses.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.