

1 H.124

2 Introduced by Representatives Stevens of Waterbury, Branagan of Georgia,  
3 Consejo of Sheldon, Masland of Thetford, Ram of Burlington  
4 and Webb of Shelburne

5 Referred to Committee on

6 Date:

7 Subject: General provisions; Native American Indian people; office of Native  
8 American affairs

9 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to create an office of Native  
10 American affairs with the purpose of providing aid and assistance to Native  
11 Americans.

12 An act relating to the office of Native American affairs

13 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

14 Sec. 1. 1 V.S.A. § 854 is added to read:

15 § 854. OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS; DIRECTOR; DUTIES

16 (a) The office of Native American affairs is created within the department  
17 of economic, housing and community development. The office shall be  
18 headed by a director appointed by the commissioner of the department of  
19 economic, housing and community development.

1       (b) In addition to the duties elsewhere set forth by law, the director of the  
2 office of Native American affairs shall:

3           (1) Acquaint himself or herself, his or her assistants and employees,  
4 with the laws, federal, state, and local, enacted for the benefit of Native  
5 Americans and their heirs or beneficiaries; collect data and information as to  
6 facilities and services available to them; and cooperate with information or  
7 service agencies throughout the state to inform Native Americans, their heirs  
8 or beneficiaries, regarding the existence or availability of:

9                   (A) Educational training and retraining facilities;

10                   (B) Health, medical, rehabilitation, and housing services and  
11 facilities;

12                   (C) Employment and reemployment services;

13                   (D) Provisions of federal, state, and local laws affording rights,  
14 privileges, and benefits to Native Americans, their families and dependents,  
15 and other matters of similar, related, or appropriate nature;

16           (2) Assist Native Americans and their heirs or beneficiaries in the  
17 presentation, proof, and establishment of such claims, privileges, rights, and  
18 other benefits as they may have under federal, state, or local laws; and

19           (3) Cooperate with all national, state, and local governmental and  
20 private agencies in securing services or any benefits to Native Americans, their  
21 families, and their dependents.