

1 H.133

2 Introduced by Representatives Stevens of Waterbury, Masland of Thetford,
3 and Webb of Shelburne

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: General provisions; Native American Indian people; Office of Native
7 American Affairs

8 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create the
9 Office of Native American Affairs with the purpose of providing aid and
10 assistance to Native Americans.

11 An act relating to establishing the Office of Native American Affairs

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

13 Sec. 1. 1 V.S.A. § 857 is added to read:

14 § 857. OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS; DIRECTOR; DUTIES

15 (a) The Office of Native American Affairs is created within the Department
16 of Housing and Community Development. The Office shall be headed by a
17 director appointed by the Commissioner of Housing and Community
18 Development.

19 (b) In addition to the duties elsewhere set forth by law, the Director of the
20 Office of Native American Affairs shall:

1 (1) acquaint himself or herself and the employees of the Office with the
2 federal, State, and local laws enacted for the benefit of Native Americans and
3 their heirs and beneficiaries; collect data and information as to facilities and
4 services available to them; and cooperate with informational or service
5 agencies throughout the State to inform Native Americans and their heirs and
6 beneficiaries regarding the existence or availability of:

7 (A) educational training and retraining facilities;

8 (B) health, medical, rehabilitation, and housing services and
9 facilities;

10 (C) employment and reemployment services; and

11 (D) provisions of federal, State, and local laws affording rights,
12 privileges, and benefits to Native Americans and their families and dependents,
13 and other related matters;

14 (2) assist Native Americans and their heirs and beneficiaries in the
15 presentation, proof, and establishment of any claims, privileges, rights, and
16 other benefits that they may have pursuant to federal, State, or local laws; and

17 (3) cooperate with all national, State, and local governmental and
18 private agencies in securing services and benefits to Native Americans and
19 their families and dependents.

20 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

21 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.