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H.520

Introduced by Representatives Masland of Thetford and Sims of Craftsbury

Referred to Committee on

Date:

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

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

An act relating to creating the Office of Native American Affairs

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

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

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

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

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

1 (1) ensure that the employees of the Office are familiar with the federal,
2 State, and local laws enacted for the benefit of Native Americans and their
3 heirs and beneficiaries; collect data and information as to facilities and services
4 available to them; and cooperate with informational or service agencies
5 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 services and 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, 2022.