

**MEMO**

**To** Members, Senate Finance Committee  
**From:** Karen Horn, Director Public Policy & Advocacy  
**Date:** March 25, 2022  
**Re:** H. 556, Exempting Property Owned by Vermont-Recognized Native American Tribes from Property Tax

Thank you for asking us to testify on H. 556.

The bill would exempt from education and municipal property taxes that real and personal property owned by a Vermont recognized Native American tribe, or owned by a nonprofit organized for the tribe's benefit and controlled by the tribe, as long as it is used for the tribe's purposes.

There are four parcels that are eligible for this exemption at this time - in Barton, Swanton, Brattleboro and Brunswick. The Joint Fiscal Office estimated that the impact on the Education Fund revenues would be approximately \$7000. The impact on municipal taxes would be somewhat less although the Joint Fiscal Office did not quantify an amount. The Joint Fiscal Office assumed that the four currently eligible parcels would be the only parcels that would be affected by the legislation now or in the future.

We support H. 556.

It would be helpful to put in place a mechanism for re-evaluating the impacts of the exemption in the future should additional parcels become eligible.