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H.260

Introduced by Representatives Sims of Craftsbury, Bluemle of Burlington,
Andriano of Orwell, Birong of Vergennes, Brumsted of
Shelburne, Burrows of West Windsor, Chesnut-Tangerman of
Middletown Springs, Dodge of Essex, Elder of Starksboro,
Farlice-Rubio of Barnet, Garofano of Essex, Krasnow of South
Burlington, LaBounty of Lyndon, Masland of Thetford, Roberts
of Halifax, and Surprenant of Barnard

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: General; Native American Indian People; Commission on Native
American Affairs

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to increase the
per diem compensation paid to members of the Vermont Commission on
Native American Affairs, provide the Commissioner with funding and
authority to hire staff, provide the Commission with funding to carry out
educational initiatives, and dedicate office space within the Agency of
Commerce and Community Development for use by the Commission.

An act relating to the Commission on Native American Affairs

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

2 Sec. 1. 1 V.S.A. § 852 is amended to read:

3 § 852. VERMONT COMMISSION ON NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

4 ESTABLISHED; AUTHORITY

5 * * *

6 (c)(1) The Commission shall have the following duties:

7 ~~(1)~~(A) elect a chair each year;

8 ~~(2)~~(B) provide technical assistance and an explanation of the process to
9 applicants for State recognition;

10 ~~(3)~~(C) compile and maintain a list of professionals and scholars for
11 appointment to a review panel;

12 ~~(4)~~(D) appoint a three-member panel acceptable to both the applicant
13 and the Commission to review supporting documentation of an application for
14 recognition and advise the Commission of its accuracy and relevance;

15 ~~(5)~~(E) review each application, supporting documentation and findings
16 of the review panel, and make recommendations for or against State
17 recognition to the appropriate legislative committees;

18 ~~(6)~~(F) assist Native American Indian tribes recognized by the State to:

19 ~~(A)~~(i) secure assistance for social services, education, employment
20 opportunities, health care, and housing; and

1 ~~(B)~~(ii) develop and market Vermont Native American fine and
2 performing arts, craft work, and cultural events; and

3 ~~(7)~~(G) develop policies and programs to benefit Vermont's Native
4 American Indian population within the scope of the Commission's authority.

5 (2) The Commission shall have the following powers:

6 (A) conduct research and study issues affecting the status of Native
7 Americans in Vermont;

8 (B) advise and consult with the Executive Branch, the General
9 Assembly, other State and local government entities, and the public on
10 services, programs, policies, and issues affecting the status of Native
11 Americans in Vermont;

12 (C) publish periodic reports documenting the legal, economic, social,
13 and political status, and other concerns, of Native Americans in Vermont;

14 (D) educate State and local government entities and the public about
15 issues affecting Native Americans in Vermont;

16 (E) facilitate communication across the community of Native
17 Americans in Vermont;

18 (F) maintain an office and hire employees as necessary to carry out
19 its duties;

1 (G) contract for or otherwise acquire legal, technical, or research
2 expertise and support as necessary for the discharge of the Commission's
3 duties;

4 (H) utilize voluntary and uncompensated services of private
5 individuals, agencies, and organizations that are available to assist the
6 Commission in carrying out its duties; and

7 (I) seek and receive funding from federal and other sources to assist
8 with its work.

9 ~~(d) During fiscal year 2011, the Commission shall meet at least three times~~
10 ~~a year and at any other times at the request of the Chair and Commission~~
11 ~~members shall receive a per diem pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010. In fiscal year~~
12 ~~2012 and thereafter, the~~ The Commission shall meet as needed ~~but~~ and
13 ~~members shall receive a per diem pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010 no more than~~
14 ~~six times a year~~ of \$100.00 per meeting, with a maximum of \$1,000.00 a year,
15 and shall be entitled to expenses actually and necessarily incurred in the
16 performance of the member's duties.

17 (e) The Division for Historic Preservation within the Agency of Commerce
18 and Community Development shall provide administrative support to the
19 Commission to supplement the assistance provided by employees of the
20 Commission, including providing communication and contact resources.

1 ~~(e) The Commission may seek and receive funding from federal and other~~
2 ~~sources to assist with its work.~~

3 Sec. 2. APPROPRIATIONS; POSITION

4 (a) The following amounts are appropriated to the Vermont Commission on
5 Native American Affairs from the General Fund:

6 (1) \$9,000.00 for providing per diem compensation and reimbursement
7 of expenses of members;

8 (2) \$41,000.00 for the development and implementation of educational
9 initiatives; and

10 (3) \$100,000.00 to support the cost of one full-time position.

11 (b) The establishment of one full-time administrator position in the
12 Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs is authorized in fiscal year
13 2024.

14 Sec. 3. COMMISSION ON NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS; OFFICE

15 SPACE

16 The Secretary of Commerce and Community Development shall provide
17 office space for the Commission on Native American Affairs within the
18 facilities occupied by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development.
19 The office space shall include, at a minimum, suitable office space for the staff
20 of the Commission and a meeting space for the Commission. The meeting

1 space for the Commission may be shared with other departments and offices
2 within the Agency.

3 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.