

1 H.84

2 Introduced by Representatives Stevens of Waterbury, Conquest of Newbury,

3 Consejo of Sheldon, McCarthy of St. Albans City, Savage of

4 Swanton, Webb of Shelburne, and Zagar of Barnard

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 of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create an

10 Office of Native American Affairs with the purpose of providing aid and

11 assistance to Native 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. § 857 is added to read:

15 § 857. 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 Economic, Housing

19 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 and his or her assistants and employees
4 with the federal, state, and local laws 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 and their
8 heirs 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; and

13 (D) provisions of federal, state, and local laws affording rights,
14 privileges, and benefits to Native Americans and 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 private
20 agencies in securing services or any benefits to Native Americans, their
21 families, and their dependents.

1 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

2 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.