STATE OF NEW YORK

8435

IN SENATE

January 29, 2024

Introduced by Sen. KENNEDY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Finance

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to establishing the office of Native American affairs

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding a new article 15-D to read as follows:

ARTICLE 15-D

OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Section 328-d. Office of Native American affairs.

328-e. General functions, powers and duties.

§ 328-d. Office of Native American affairs. 1. There is hereby created in the executive department an office of Native American affairs. The head of the office shall be the commissioner of Native American affairs who shall be appointed by the governor and who shall hold office at the pleasure of the governor.

2. The commissioner shall receive an annual salary to be fixed by the governor within the amount made available therefor by an appropriation and shall be allowed his or her actual and necessary expenses in the performance of his or her duties.

3. The commissioner shall direct the work of the office and shall be the chief executive officer of the office. The commissioner may appoint such officers and employees as he or she may deem necessary, prescribe their duties, fix their compensation, and provide for the reimbursement of their expenses, all within amounts made available therefor by appropriation.

§ 328-e. General functions, powers and duties. The office of Native American affairs by and through the commissioner or such commissioner's duly authorized officers and employees, shall:

1. Act as a centralized office for Native American nations to access information on state programs that are provided to Native Americans.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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2. Develop and maintain cooperative relationships between New York state's Native nations, Native organization, Native American citizens, and the state.

3. Establish, manage, coordinate, and facilitate Native American-related policies, positions, and programs.

4. Advise and assist state agencies in developing policies, plans, and programs for Native Americans.

5. Serve as a connector for New York state's Native nations to other state agencies and programs.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law.