

LEGISLATIVE BILL 904

Approved by the Governor May 22, 1971

Introduced by J. W. Burbach, 19th District; Leslie A. Stull, 49th District;

AN ACT relating to Indians; to establish a Commission on Indian Affairs as prescribed.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. (1) There is hereby established the Commission on Indian Affairs, hereinafter referred to as the commission.

(2) The commission shall consist of thirteen members who shall be American Indians residing within the State of Nebraska and from the following categories: Three from the Omaha Tribe reservation, three from the Winnebago Tribe reservation, three from the Santee Tribe reservation, one from the City of Lincoln, two from the City of Omaha, and one member representing Western Nebraska Indian controlled corporate groups. The commission may have such nonvoting, ex officio members as shall be appointed by the commission and who need not be of Indian ancestry. The commission shall elect one of its members as chairman. The members of the Governor's Commission on Indian Affairs serving on the effective date of this act shall constitute the initial members of the commission. The commission shall hold its first meeting on call of the Governor within thirty days of the effective date of this act and by lot select seven of its members to serve for a time of three years and six for a term of six years. Thereafter, appointments shall be for a term of six years or for the unexpired term in the event of a vacancy. Appointments shall be made from a panel of nominees submitted by the group to be represented, with three names being submitted for each appointment to be made.

(3) For the purposes of administration, the commission is placed within the Department of Economic Development.

Sec. 2. The purpose of the commission shall be to join representatives of all Indians in Nebraska to do all things which it may determine to enhance the cause of Indian rights and to develop solutions to problems common to all Nebraska Indians.

Sec. 3. The commission shall be a legal entity with the power to receive and administer funds from state, federal, tribal, and other sources, and to employ and fix the compensation of an executive director of its own choosing who shall be an enrolled member of a Nebraska tribe or a legal resident of the state of Nebraska of Indian descent. An office for the executive director shall be provided in the State Capitol.

Sec. 4. The functions of the commission shall be to:

(1) Promote state and federal legislation beneficial to the Indian community in Nebraska;

(2) Coordinate existing programs relating to the Indian community in such areas as housing, education, welfare, medical and dental care, employment, economic development, law and order, and related problems;

(3) Work with other state and federal government agencies and federal and state elected officials in the development of new programs in areas mentioned under subdivision (2) of this section;

(4) Keep the Governor's office apprised of the situation in the Indian community;

(5) Provide the public with information and education relevant to Indian affairs in the State of Nebraska; and

(6) Develop programs to encourage the total involvement of Indian people in activities for the common benefit of the Indian community.

Sec. 5. The members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but they shall receive reimbursement for any actual expenses incurred as a necessary incidence to such service.

Sec. 6. The commission shall meet at least monthly. The commission shall make a report annually to the Legislature and the Governor as to the work and accomplishments of the commission. Seven members present shall constitute a quorum.