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H.918

SHORT FORM

Introduced by Representatives Cina of Burlington, Christensen of  
Weathersfield, Christie of Hartford, Colston of Winooski,  
Demrow of Corinth, Gonzalez of Winooski, Lippert of  
Hinesburg, Morgan of Milton, Page of Newport City, and Ralph  
of Hartland

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: General; Native American Indian People; religious freedom; property  
taxation

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish legal  
protections that enable the Native American peoples of Vermont to access  
sacred religious and spiritual sites located on State property and to practice  
their religions, spiritual beliefs, and traditional ceremonies and rites free from  
State interference. This bill also proposes to protect the physical, spiritual, and  
aesthetic integrity of sacred religious and spiritual sites by permitting the  
Commission on Native American Affairs to identify to the State sacred sites  
and other locations of cultural, religious, or spiritual significance to Vermont's  
recognized tribes; as well as by requiring that, before issuing any permit or  
otherwise approving any activity related to an identified sacred site or other

1 identified location of cultural, religious, or spiritual significance, the State shall  
2 consult with the Commission on Native American Affairs regarding the  
3 culturally appropriate treatment, use, and preservation of the site. Finally, this  
4 bill proposes to exempt identified sacred sites located on private land from  
5 property taxation.

6 An act relating to Native American cultural and religious freedom

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

8 (TEXT OMITTED IN SHORT-FORM BILLS)