

AN ACT concerning

Commission on Indian Affairs - Recognition of
Maryland's American Indians

~~FOR--the--purpose--of--authorizing--the--Commission--on--Indian--Affairs--to--provide--formal--State--recognition--to--certain--native--American--tribes,--bands,--or--groups,--specifying--certain--criteria--which--must--be--proven--to--the--satisfaction--of--the--Commission--on--Indian--Affairs,--authorizing--the--Commission--to--adopt--regulations--and--procedures--to--carry--out--the--provisions--of--this--Act;~~

FOR the purpose of requiring the Commission on Indian Affairs to identify and recognize each Native American nation, tribe, band, clan, or other identifiable group that was indigenous to Maryland in 1790, subject to a certain limitation, requiring the Commission to propose a process, by a certain date, for determining which citizens of the State are descendants of a Native American nation, tribe, band, clan, or other group which is identified and recognized by the Commission; authorizing the Commission on Indian Affairs to establish a process to provide formal State recognition to certain native American tribes, bands, groups, or clans; modifying the membership criteria for members of the Commission; establishing an application process for recognition; creating certain criminal penalties; requiring the adoption of criteria that must be proven to the satisfaction of the Commission on Indian Affairs; requiring the Commission to adopt regulations and procedures to carry out the provisions of this Act; prohibiting a Commissioner from voting or participating in certain ways with respect to certain business of the Commission; providing for the adoption of a certain executive order granting formal recognition; providing for certain review of the executive order by the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, Legislative Review; providing that this Act is not intended to create any rights of ownership or other rights to land, or to create any benefits or entitlements of any kind, or to impair any existing rights, benefits, or entitlements belonging to American Indians residing in the State; providing that any action or failure to take action by the Commission under this Act does not create a private cause of action under the laws of the State; requiring members of a petitioning group to submit a certain affidavit prior to formal recognition of Maryland Indian status; providing that certain provisions of this Act may not impair certain judicial rulings of the State; and generally relating to the recognition of Maryland's American Indians.