

VETO MESSAGE - No. 210

TO THE ASSEMBLY:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, the following bill:

Assembly Bill Number 73, entitled:

"AN ACT to amend the Indian law, in relation to establishing a procedure to evaluate the claim of the Montaukett Indians for acknowledgement as an Indian tribe by the sate of New York

NOT APPROVED

This bill would create a mechanism for the Montaukett Indians to petition New York's Secretary of State for state recognition as an Indian Nation. The Secretary would be required to use the criteria for federal recognition and promulgate the necessary rules to evaluate the petition.

Unlike the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs, the State does not have an administrative process to analyze the recognition of Indian tribes. This legislation would mandate that the State adopt the federal government's intensive, expensive and lengthy process. The State does not have the extensive resources to conduct such an investigation. Nonetheless, I am directing the Department of State to move forward with an analysis to determine if State recognition is warranted.

The bill is disapproved.

(signed) ANDREW M. CUOMO

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