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SENATE BILL NO. 1076

Offered January 17, 2020

A BILL to authorize the Governor to convey certain real property located in Charles City County to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe.

Patron—McClellan

Referred to Committee on the Judiciary

Whereas, hundreds of years ago, the Chickahominy people lived in an area along the Chickahominy River they called "Tsena Commocko," which became the homeland of the Chickahominy people; and

Whereas, over several generations, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe established a distinct culture consisting of customs, laws, dress, architectural style, social standards, religious beliefs, and traditions; and

Whereas, in 1607, when English colonists established the settlement at Jamestown, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe lived in towns and villages along the Chickahominy River, from the fall line of the river to its mouth; and

Whereas, because of their proximity to Jamestown, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe had early contact with the English colonists, teaching them how to grow and preserve their own food; and

Whereas, as the colony grew, relations between the English settlers and the Chickahominy Indian Tribe became more hostile; and

Whereas, the English settlers engaged in a series of hostile actions and policies aimed at displacing the Chickahominy Indian Tribe from their homeland including (i) destroying villages, (ii) forcibly taking established croplands, (iii) seizing hunting and fishing grounds, and (iv) kidnapping Chickahominy Indian Tribe children and forcing them into indentured servitude or slavery; and

Whereas, when the Chickahominy Indian Tribe resisted these actions and policies, they were killed or driven further away into the lands of other indigenous peoples; and

Whereas, throughout colonial history and to the recent present, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe have survived attempts to have their culture destroyed; and

Whereas, despite this history and the wrongful taking of their homeland, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe have endured and maintained their cultural identity as a people; and

Whereas, it is appropriate to repatriate the Chickahominy Indian Tribe to a portion of their original homeland as an acknowledgement of past injustice; now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. § 1. That the Governor is hereby authorized to convey to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, for the nominal consideration of \$1, a parcel of land located in Charles City County comprising 206.57 acres, shown as Pigs Point PS#393, DB 121-184, 120-320 DB65-643, 66-186, 41-183.

§ 2. That the Governor is hereby authorized to convey to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, for the nominal consideration of \$1, a parcel of land located in Charles City County comprising ten acres, shown as Pigs Point PS#393.

§ 3. The conveyances shall be made in a form approved by the Attorney General. The appropriate officials of the Commonwealth are hereby authorized to prepare, execute, and deliver such deed and other documents as may be necessary to accomplish the conveyance.

INTRODUCED

SB1076