

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 513

H. P. 401

House of Representatives, February 2, 1971

Referred to Committee on State Government. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Starbird of Kingman Township.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

AN ACT Permitting the Establishment of an Indian
Island Penobscot School Committee.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 22, § 4774-A, additional. Title 22 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 4774-A, to read as follows:

§ 4774-A. Indian Island Penobscot School Committee

The Penobscot Tribe of Indian Island is authorized to establish a school committee of not more than 5 members on its reservation to exercise guidance and supervision of its school. The method of selection of school committee members, their numbers and terms of office shall be decided by the tribal governor and council in the same manner as in the adoption of tribal ordinances, as provided in section 4717, and such decisions shall have the force of law. The responsibilities and duties of the school committee shall be the same as those provided for administrative units under Title 20, section 473.

The Commissioner of Education shall appoint a superintendent of schools who shall serve in this office in the same legal capacity as any other public school superintendent.

All bills must be approved for payment by the school committee members and the superintendent of schools, and a copy of each payroll filed with the commissioner.

The biennial budget shall be drawn up by the superintendent and school committee and forwarded to the Commissioner of Education for his consideration and recommendation before being submitted to the Legislature. The

execution of the budget must be carried out within the funds made available and in accordance with the laws governing fiscal responsibility.

Sec. 2. Transfer. At such time as said Indian Island Penobscot School Committee is officially constituted, the Department of Education shall conduct a program of training and orientation leading to transfer of authority and responsibilities in accordance with applicable statutes.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill would permit the involvement of the Penobscot Tribe of Indian Island in the educational programs of their children and would be a valuable first step in greater self-determination by the Indian people.