

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 955

H.P. 691

House of Representatives, February 11, 1997

**An Act to Permit the Joint Tribal Council of the Passamaquoddy Tribe to
Change the Names of Geographical Locations within Passamaquoddy
Territory.**

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative MOORE of the Passamaquoddy Tribe.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 30 MRSA §6206, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

6 **4. Names of geographic features within Passamaquoddy**
8 **territory.** The Joint Tribal Council of the Passamaquoddy Tribe
10 may change the name of any geographic feature within
12 Passamaquoddy territory from names that are offensive to
14 appropriate prediscovery or original names. The Joint Tribal
Council of the Passamaquoddy Tribe shall notify the Commissioner
of Conservation, the Secretary of the United States Interior and
other public agencies, boards, committees or other groups
responsible for changing names of places and for ensuring that
the name changes appear on maps and other public documents.

16 **Sec. 2. Effective date.** This Act does not take effect unless,
18 within 60 days of adjournment of the First Regular Session of the
20 118th Legislature, the Secretary of State receives written
22 notification by the Joint Tribal Council of the Passamaquoddy
24 Tribe that the Passamaquoddy Tribe has agreed to the provisions
of this Act pursuant to 25 United States Code, Section
1725(e)(1), copies of which must be submitted by the Secretary of
State to the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House.

26 **SUMMARY**

28 This bill authorizes the Joint Tribal Council of the
30 Passamaquoddy Tribe to change the names of geographic features
32 such as lakes, hills, streams, ponds, etc., within Passamaquoddy
34 territory from offensive names, usually assigned before the
enactment of the Act to Implement the Maine Indian Claims
Settlement, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30, chapter 601, to
appropriate prediscovery or original names.