



# **118th MAINE LEGISLATURE**

# **SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1997**

Legislative Document

No. 1953

H.P. 1401

House of Representatives, December 31, 1997

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission Relating to the Names of Geographic Features in Passamaquoddy Territory.

Reported by Representative THOMPSON for the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission pursuant to Resolve 1997, chapter 45.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 29, 1997. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

**J**OSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

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

### Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §4632, sub-§7 is enacted to read:

7. Names of geographic features in Indian territory. The State recognizes the right of the Passamaguoddy Tribe to change the names of geographic features within its territory. Whenever there has been a decision to change such a name:

- 10A. The Joint Tribal Council of the Passamaquoddy Tribe<br/>shall notify the Department of Conservation, the United12States Department of the Interior and other public agencies,<br/>boards, committees or groups responsible for changing the14names of places and for ensuring that the name changes<br/>appear on maps and other public documents; and
  - B. The State shall employ its good efforts to assist the Passamaquoddy Tribe in notifying the necessary entities to accomplish the name change in official maps and documents.

Sec. 2. Effective date. Section 1 of this Act does not take
effect unless, within 60 days of adjournment of the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature, the Secretary of State
receives written notification from the Joint Tribal Council of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, that the Passamaquoddy Tribe has agreed
to the provisions of this Act, copies of which must be submitted by the Secretary of State to the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House. In no event may this Act become effective until 90 days after adjournment of the Legislature.

Sec. 3. Offensive names beyond Indian territory. The Maine 32 Indian Tribal-State Commission is directed to review tribal concerns about offensive names of geographic features outside 34 Indian territory and to report back with legislative recommendations for name changes to the First Regular Session of the 119th Legislature and thereafter, as necessary. 36

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### SUMMARY

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This bill recognizes the right of the Passamaguoddy Tribe to 42 change the names of geographic features within its territory, requires the tribe to notify entities responsible for changing names of places and requires the State to employ its good efforts 44 to assist the tribe in notifying the necessary entities to 46 accomplish the name changes in official maps and documents. The bill also directs the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission to 48 review tribal concerns about offensive names of geographic features outside Indian territory and to report back to the 50 Legislature with recommendations for name changes.