

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1171

H.P. 879

House of Representatives, February 28, 2001

**An Act to Authorize the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission to
Introduce Legislation and to Organize Assemblies of State and Tribal
Leaders.**

Reported by Representative LaVERDIERE for the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission pursuant to Resolve 1997, chapter 45, section 3.

Reference to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary suggested and printing ordered under Joint Rule 218.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

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

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Sec. 1. 30 MRSA §6212, sub-§3, as amended by PL 1993, c. 600, Pt. A, §24 and affected by §25, is further amended to read:

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3. Responsibilities. In addition to the responsibilities set forth in this Act, the commission shall continually review the effectiveness of this Act and the social, economic and legal relationship between the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Penobscot Nation and the State and shall make such reports and recommendations to the Legislature, the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Penobscot Nation as it determines appropriate.

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The commission may introduce legislation relating to this Act and the relationship between the State and the Indian tribes. In filing legislation pursuant to this section, the commission shall follow the instructions of, and meet all deadlines established by, the Legislature.

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On an annual basis, the commission shall organize an assembly of governors and chiefs to discuss issues relating to this Act and the relationship between the State and the Indian tribes. The commission shall invite the Governor, the governors and chiefs of all tribal governments in the State and the tribal legislative Representatives to participate in the assembly.

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On a biennial basis, during each first regular session of the Legislature, the commission shall organize a tribal-state legislative assembly to discuss issues relating to this Act and the relationship between the State and the Indian tribes. In consultation with the tribal legislative Representatives, the commission shall invite representatives of the Legislature and tribal council members from all tribal governments in the State to participate in the assembly.

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Seven members constitute a quorum of the commission and a decision or action of the commission is not valid unless 5 members vote in favor of the action or decision.

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SUMMARY

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Resolve 1997, chapter 45 authorized the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission to submit legislation as part of its reporting to the Legislature about the impact of Maine's civil laws on the Wabanaki. The bill authorizes the commission to introduce legislation on an ongoing basis.

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Resolve 1997, chapter 45 also required the commission to organize an Assembly of Governors and Chiefs. The bill requires

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2 the commission to organize an assembly of governors and chiefs on an annual basis and requires the commission to organize a tribal-state legislative assembly on a biennial basis.