

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

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Legislative Document

No. 115

H.P. 107

House of Representatives, January 9, 2007

### **An Act To Recognize the Metis Eastern Tribal Indian Society of Maine**

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Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative CAMPBELL of Newfield.

Cosponsored by Senator NASS of York and Representatives: CEBRA of Naples, HARLOW of Portland, HOTHAM of Dixfield, JACOBSEN of Waterboro, NASS of Acton, TARDY of Newport, WEBSTER of Freeport, Senator: COURTNEY of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30 MRSA c. 605** is enacted to read:

3 **CHAPTER 605**

4 **METIS EASTERN TRIBAL INDIAN SOCIETY OF MAINE**  
5 **RECOGNITION ACT**

6 **§8101. Short title**

7 This chapter may be known and cited as “the Metis Eastern Tribal Indian Society of  
8 Maine Recognition Act.”

9 **§8102. Definitions**

10 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms  
11 have the following meanings.

12 **1. Laws of the State.** "Laws of the State" means the Constitution of Maine and all  
13 laws and rules of the State and its political subdivisions and judicial interpretations  
14 thereof.

15 **2. Metis.** "Metis" means a person who:

16 A. Is of Metis Nation ancestry;

17 B. Self-identifies as Metis; and

18 C. Is a member of the Metis Eastern Tribal Indian Society of Maine.

19 **3. Metis Eastern Tribal Indian Society of Maine.** "Metis Eastern Tribal Indian  
20 Society of Maine" means the membership society of Metis people in this State.

21 **4. Metis Nation.** "Metis Nation" means the people who are:

22 A. Included within the definition of "aboriginal peoples of Canada" within section 35  
23 of the Constitution Act, 1982 of Canada; and

24 B. Descended from the historic aboriginal people then known as Metis who resided  
25 in the area of North America known as the historic Metis Nation homeland and used  
26 and occupied as the traditional territory of the Metis.

27 **§8103. Recognition**

28 The State recognizes the Metis Eastern Tribal Indian Society of Maine as a distinct  
29 aboriginal group.

30 **§8104. Laws of the State**

31 Nothing in this Act alters the application of the laws of the State to any person or  
32 entity or extends to any person or entity a legal status that augments or diminishes the

1 person's or entity's rights, powers, privileges or immunities under the laws of the State.  
2 The Metis Eastern Tribal Indian Society of Maine, Metis people and all property held by  
3 or for the Metis Eastern Tribal Indian Society of Maine or any Metis person are subject to  
4 the laws of the State and to the civil and criminal jurisdiction of the courts of the State to  
5 the same extent as any other person, entity or property.

6

## SUMMARY

7 This bill extends state recognition to the Metis Eastern Tribal Indian Society of  
8 Maine as a distinct aboriginal group. This bill does not alter the application of the laws of  
9 the State to the Metis Eastern Tribal Indian Society of Maine or Metis people.