

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 357

S.P. 121

In Senate, February 5, 2009

An Act To Require the Teaching of Acadian History as Part of Maine History

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator JACKSON of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representative MARTIN of Eagle Lake and
Senators: MARRACHÉ of Kennebec, SIMPSON of Androscoggin, Representatives: AYOTTE
of Caswell, CASAVANT of Biddeford, CROCKETT of Augusta, ROTUNDO of Lewiston,
THERIAULT of Madawaska, WAGNER of Lyman.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4706, sub-§2**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2003, c. 510,
3 Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

4 **2. Maine studies.** Maine history, including the Constitution of Maine, Maine
5 geography and environment and the natural, industrial and economic resources of Maine
6 and Maine's cultural and ethnic heritage, must be taught. A required component of Maine
7 history is the study of Acadian history, which must be included in the review of content
8 standards and performance indicators of the learning results conducted in accordance
9 with section 6209, subsection 4. A required component of Maine studies is Maine Native
10 American studies, which must be included in the review of content standards and
11 performance indicators of the learning results conducted in accordance with section 6209,
12 subsection 4. The Maine Native American studies must address the following topics:

- 13 A. Maine tribal governments and political systems and their relationship with local,
14 state, national and international governments;
- 15 B. Maine Native American cultural systems and the experience of Maine tribal
16 people throughout history;
- 17 C. Maine Native American territories; and
- 18 D. Maine Native American economic systems.

19 **SUMMARY**

20 This bill amends the law governing instruction in history in public schools to require
21 the inclusion of Acadian history as a component of Maine history.