

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 361

H.P. 259

House of Representatives, February 8, 2021

**An Act To Establish a Permanent Appointment of a Member of the
Wabanaki Tribes to the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Advisory
Council**

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 4, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative NEWELL of the Passamaquoddy Tribe.
Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and
Representatives: COLLINGS of Portland, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, HEPLER of
Woolwich, McDONALD of Stonington, PERRY of Calais, Senators: CURRY of Waldo, DILL
of Penobscot.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10151, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 375, §1, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **1. Appointment.** The Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Advisory Council, established by
5 Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 20 and referred to in this Part as the "advisory council,"
6 consists of 11 members, with 10 members representing the 16 counties of the State in the
7 following manner: one member representing Androscoggin County, Kennebec County and
8 Sagadahoc County; one member representing Aroostook County; one member representing
9 Cumberland County; one member representing Franklin County and Oxford County; one
10 member representing Hancock County; one member representing Knox County, Lincoln
11 County and Waldo County; one member representing Penobscot County; one member
12 representing Piscataquis County and Somerset County; one member representing
13 Washington County; and one member representing York County. The 11th member must
14 be a member of the Wabanaki Tribes. Members of the advisory council are appointed by
15 the Governor, subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
16 jurisdiction over fisheries and wildlife matters and to confirmation by the Legislature. The
17 Governor shall appoint the member who is a member of the Wabanaki Tribes based on the
18 recommendation of the tribal governments of the Wabanaki Tribes, including the
19 Aroostook Band of Micmacs, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Passamaquoddy
20 Tribe at Motahmikuk, the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik and the Penobscot Nation. In
21 recommending the appointment of the member who is a member of the Wabanaki Tribes,
22 the tribal governments of the Wabanaki Tribes shall establish a process that provides for
23 the membership to rotate among the tribal governments. The commissioner or the
24 commissioner's designee is a nonvoting, ex officio member of the advisory council, but
25 may vote to break a tie.

26 An employee of the department may not serve as a member of the advisory council prior
27 to the expiration of one year from that employee's last day of employment with the
28 department. A Legislator may not serve as a member of the advisory council. A former
29 Legislator who was a member of the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
30 jurisdiction over fisheries and wildlife matters may not serve as a member of the advisory
31 council prior to the expiration of one year from that former Legislator's last day of
32 membership on that committee.

33 **SUMMARY**

34 This bill increases the membership of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Advisory
35 Council by adding a member who represents the Wabanaki Tribes.