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Legislative Document

No. 453

H.P. 329

House of Representatives, February 16, 2021

An Act To Establish a Permanent Appointment of a Member of the Wabanaki Tribes to the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 11, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

R(+ B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

Presented by Representative NEWELL of the Passamaquoddy Tribe. Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: BAILEY of Gorham, MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth, Senator: DAUGHTRY of Cumberland. 1 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. P&SL 1865, c. 532, §4, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1983, c. 799, §4, is further amended to read:

4 2. Members appointed by the Governor. Fourteen members shall must be appointed 5 for 5-year terms by the Governor, subject to review by the joint standing committee of the 6 Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters and confirmation by the Legislature. Each term shall expire expires on May 26th of the appropriate year, except that the retiring 7 8 member shall serve serves until a successor is appointed by the Governor and confirmed 9 by the Legislature. No A person accepting such an appointment under this subsection may not be a member of the State Board of Education. In making appointments, the Governor 10 shall strive to achieve a membership which that is representative of the population of this 11 State. In so far as feasible when selecting qualified nominees to the board, the Governor 12 shall consider affirmative action criteria, professional education and experience and an 13 14 equitable geographical representation among the members. At least one member appointed by the Governor must be a member of the Wabanaki Tribes. Trustees may serve a 15 16 maximum of 2 terms, except that an individual appointed to fill an unexpired term of 3 17 years or less is eligible for appointment to 2 full terms. Vacancies shall must be filled by the Governor, subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having 18 19 jurisdiction over education matters and confirmation by the Legislature, for the unexpired 20 balance of the term. In order to restore and maintain rotation of terms of office of trustees, 21 an incumbent trustee who was appointed for a term of 5 years at a time subsequent to the expiration of the term of his that trustee's predecessor in office shall be is deemed to have 22 23 commenced his that trustee's 5-year term upon the date of the expiration of the term of 24 office of his that trustee's predecessor rather than from the date of his that trustee's 25 appointment and qualification. Trustees shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for travel and other expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties. 26

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SUMMARY

This bill requires that at least one member of the Board of Trustees of the University
of Maine System be a member of the Wabanaki Tribes.