

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2022

Legislative Document

No. 1767

H.P. 1318

House of Representatives, December 2, 2021

An Act To Ensure Tribal Representation in the Public Health Infrastructure

Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on November 30, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services 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.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §412, sub-§5-A**, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 306, §2, is amended
3 to read:

4 **5-A. Tribal district.** The tribal district shall deliver components of essential public
5 health services through the tribal district's public health liaisons, who are tribal employees
6 or tribal district employees, and report to the tribes, the department's office of ~~minority~~
7 health population health equity and any other sources of funding. Responses to federal and
8 state requests for applications may be issued by one tribe, 2 or more tribes collectively or
9 the tribal district as the recipient of funds. The directors of the tribal health departments or
10 health clinics serve as the tribal district coordinating council for public health in an advisory
11 role to the tribal district. The council may establish subcommittees to work on specific
12 projects approved by the council.

13 **SUMMARY**

14 This bill amends the laws governing the coordination of public health infrastructure
15 components to allow a tribal district's public liaisons to be either tribal employees or tribal
16 district employees. It also changes the reporting requirement for the tribal district to reflect
17 the creation of the office of population health equity within the Department of Health and
18 Human Services.