

* Unofficial Amendment Post-it Fax Note 7671	Draft to LD 291	
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Proposed Sponsor Amendment  
for EDU Review @ 4/25/01 WS

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**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " " TO LD 291, An Act to Require Teaching of Maine Native American History and Culture in Maine's Schools**

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

**Sec. 1.** 20-A MRSA §4706, as amended by PL 1991, c. 655, §4, is further amended to read:

**§4706. Instruction in American history, Maine studies and Maine Native American history**

The following subjects shall be are required.

**1. American history.** American history and civil government, including the Constitution of the United States, the Declaration of Independence, the importance of voting and the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship, shall must be taught in and required for graduation from all elementary and secondary schools, both public and private.

**2. Maine studies.** ~~A course in~~ Maine history, including the Constitution of Maine, Maine geography and environment and the natural, industrial and economic resources of Maine and Maine's cultural and ethnic heritage, must be taught ~~in at least one grade from grade 6 to grade 8, in all schools, both public and private. These concepts must be integrated into the curriculum in grades 9 to 12.~~ A required component of Maine studies is Maine Native American studies addressing the following topics:

A. Maine tribal governments and political systems and their relationship with local, state, national and international governments;

B. Maine Native American cultural systems and the experience of Maine tribal people throughout history;

C. Maine Native American territories; and

D. Maine Native American economic systems.

~~3. Maine Native American history. Maine Native American history and culture must be taught in all elementary and secondary schools, both public and private.~~

~~4. Rulemaking. The commissioner shall adopt or amend rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.~~

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §6209, first ¶, as amended by PL 1999, c. 75, §5, is further amended to read:

The department in consultation with the state board shall establish and implement a comprehensive, statewide system of learning results, referred to in this section as the "system," no later than the 2002-03 school year. The system, based broadly upon guiding principles set forth in this section, must establish high academic standards at all grade levels in the areas of math; English; science and technology; social studies, including history, economics and civics; career preparation; visual and performing arts; health and physical education; and foreign languages. Maine Native American history and culture must be included in, but is not limited to, the areas of social studies and modern and classical languages. Only students in a public school or a private school approved by the State pursuant to section 2901 and approved for the receipt of public funds by private secondary schools pursuant to section 2951 are required to participate in the system of learning results. The commissioner shall develop accommodation provisions for instances where course content conflicts with sincerely held religious beliefs and practices of a student's parent or guardian. The system must be adopted to accommodate exceptional students as defined in section 7001, subsection 2.

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §6209, sub-§3\_4 is enacted to read:

~~3. Rulemaking. The commissioner shall adopt or amend rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined by Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II A. On or before September 1, 2003, the commissioner shall adopt rules to incorporate Maine Native American history and culture into the standards and performance indicators of the 8 content standard subject areas that comprise the system. In adopting these rules, the commissioner shall amend the standards and performance indicators in the content standard subject areas of social studies under the headings of civics and government, history, geography and economics that address the following topics:~~

~~A. Maine tribal governments and political systems, and their relationship with local, state, national and international governments;~~

~~B. Maine Native American cultural systems and the experience of Maine tribal people throughout history;~~

~~C. Maine Native American territories; and~~

~~D. Maine Native American economic systems.~~

4. Review cycle. The commissioner shall conduct a review of the content standards and performance indicators by content area on a 4-year cycle beginning in the 2003-2004 school year. Any changes that are recommended must be approved through the same process used for establishment of the system of learning results.

**Sec. 4. Commission-established.** ~~The Commission to Study the Inclusion of Maine Native American History and Culture Commission in Maine's System of Learning Results, referred to in this section as the "commission," is hereby established to assist school administrative units and educators in the exploration of a wide range of curricular programs and options that include to help prepare for the inclusion of Maine Native American history and culture in a manner that is consistent with the guiding principles of into the system of learning results established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6209. The curricular programs and options must be developed so that the inclusion of Maine Native American history and culture coincides with the full implementation of the system of learning results for the 2002-03 school year.~~

**1. Membership.** The commission consists of the following ~~7~~ 15 members:

A. ~~Four~~ Eight members ~~representing will be selected~~ the tribal chiefs and governors of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation, the Houlton Band of Maliseets and the Aroostook Band of Micmacs, ~~or the tribal chiefs' or governors' designees;~~ At least one of these members will be appointed to serve from the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission.

B. ~~The Six~~ Six members ~~will be selected by the Commissioner of Education. or the commissioner's designee;~~ Commission members will include an elementary school teacher, a middle school teacher, a high school teacher, a curriculum director, a superintendent or principal; and an employee of the Department of Education

C. ~~The Chair of the State Board of Education or the chair's designee; and One member will be selected by the Chancellor of the University of Maine System.~~

~~D. The Chancellor of the University of Maine System or the chancellor's designee.~~

~~No later than 30 days following the effective date of this Act, the Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission. The Commissioner of Education shall select a chair from among the commission members prior to the first commission meeting.~~

2. **Duties.** The commission ~~shall report to the Commissioner of Education for implementation of its findings on~~ will:

A. ~~Curricular programs and options that are appropriate to assist~~ Assist school administrative units and educators in the ~~State to include~~ exploration of a wide range of educational materials and resources relating to Maine Native American history and culture ~~into the system of learning results; and~~

B. ~~The necessary professional development, training and technical assistance that must be provided to assist school administrative units and educators in the State in implementing Maine Native American history and culture into~~ Identify materials and resources that are consistent with the guiding principles of the system of learning results.; ~~and~~

C. Involve other knowledgeable organizations and individuals able and willing to assist with this work, including but not limited to museums and educators.

3. **Convening the Commission.** ~~No later than 30 days following the effective date of this Act, the Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission shall~~ will call and convene the first meeting of the commission ~~and will preside over the selection of a chair. The Commissioner of Education shall select a chair from among the commission members prior to the first commission meeting.~~

4. **Reporting.** The Commission will report its findings to the Commissioner of Education for implementation, and will provide a copy to the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission, regarding:

A. Educational materials that are appropriate to assist school administrative units and educators in the State to include Maine Native American history and culture in the system of learning results; and

B. Opportunities for professional development, training and technical assistance that must be provided to assist school administrative units and educators in the State in implementing Maine Native American history and culture into the system of learning results.

3 5. **Staff assistance and budget resources.** ~~The Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission Department of Education shall~~ will provide staffing assistance ~~and research services~~ to the commission. ~~The department may elect to provide~~

members of the commission with per diem and expenses for their participation in commission meetings. Each entity appointing members to the commission will reimburse its appointees to the commission for travel costs associated with participation in commission meetings and other activities of the commission. Each entity will assist in identifying and securing resources to enhance the work of the commission.

**4.6. Implementation.** The recommendations of the commission must be submitted will provide a preliminary report to the Commissioner of Education for dissemination to Maine educators by no later than June 1, 2003 2002 and must be implemented a final report by no later than September 1, 2003.

## SUMMARY

This amendment requires that Maine Native American history and culture be taught in all elementary and secondary schools and requires the Department of Education to include Maine Native American history and culture in the system of learning results. This amendment also establishes a commission to identify and explore available materials and resources for Maine educators to use to accomplish this task.