

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6707

To amend the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1980 to advance equality for Wabanaki nations, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 11, 2022

Mr. GOLDEN (for himself and Ms. PINGREE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To amend the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1980 to advance equality for Wabanaki nations, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Advancing Equality  
5 for Wabanaki Nations Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. APPLICATION OF CERTAIN LAWS.**

7 (a) APPLICATION OF STATE LAWS.—The Maine In-  
8 dian Claims Settlement Act of 1980 (Public Law 96–420)  
9 is amended—

10 (1) in section 3—

1 (A) in subsection (m), by striking “and” at  
2 the end;

3 (B) in subsection (n), by striking the pe-  
4 riod and inserting “; and”; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(o) ‘Mi’kmaq Nation’ means the sole successor to  
7 the Micmac Nation as constituted in aboriginal times in  
8 what is now the State of Maine, and all its predecessors  
9 and successors in interest, and which is represented, as  
10 of the date of enactment of this subsection, as to lands  
11 within the United States, by the Mi’kmaq Council.”; and

12 (2) in section 6—

13 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “provided  
14 in section 8(e) and section 5(d)(4)” and insert-  
15 ing “otherwise provided in this Act”; and

16 (B) in subsection (h)—

17 (i) by striking “Except as otherwise  
18 provided in this Act, the” and inserting  
19 “The”;

20 (ii) in the first sentence, by inserting  
21 “or enacted for the benefit of” before “In-  
22 dians, Indian nations”;

23 (iii) by inserting “that is in effect as  
24 of the date of the enactment of the Ad-

1 vancing Equality for Wabanaki Nations  
2 Act, (2)” after “United States (1)”;

3 (iv) by striking “also (2)” and insert-  
4 ing “also (3)”;

5 (v) by inserting “, unless Federal law  
6 or the State laws of Maine provide for the  
7 application of such Federal law or regula-  
8 tion” after “State” and before the period  
9 at the end.

10 (b) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INDIAN CHILD WEL-  
11 FARE ACT.—Section 8 of the Maine Indian Claims Settle-  
12 ment Act of 1980 (Public Law 96–420) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (a)—

14 (A) by striking “or” after “Passama-  
15 quoddy Tribe” and inserting a comma;

16 (B) by inserting “, the Houlton Band of  
17 Maliseet Indians, or the Mi’kmaq Nation” after  
18 “Penobscot Nation”; and

19 (C) in the second sentence, by striking “re-  
20 spective tribe or nation” each place it appears  
21 and inserting “respective tribe, nation, or  
22 band”;

23 (2) in subsection (b)—

24 (A) by striking “or” after “Passama-  
25 quoddy Tribe” and inserting a comma; and

1 (B) by inserting “, the Houlton Band of  
2 Maliseet Indians, or the Mi’kmaq Nation” after  
3 “Penobscot Nation”;

4 (3) by striking subsection (e);

5 (4) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-  
6 section (e); and

7 (5) in subsection (e), as so redesignated—

8 (A) by striking “or” after “Passama-  
9 quoddy Tribe” and inserting a comma;

10 (B) by inserting “, the Houlton Band of  
11 Maliseet Indians, or the Mi’kmaq Nation” after  
12 “Penobscot Nation”; and

13 (C) by striking “or nation” and inserting  
14 “, nation, or band”.

15 (c) CONSTRUCTION.—Section 16 of the Maine Indian  
16 Claims Settlement Act of 1980 (Public Law 96–420) is  
17 amended—

18 (1) by striking “(a)” at the beginning; and

19 (2) by striking subsection (b).

20 (d) AROOSTOOK BAND OF MICMACS SETTLEMENT  
21 ACT.—The Aroostook Band of Micmacs Settlement Act  
22 (Public Law 102–171) is amended by striking section 8.