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LD 1474

Although LD 291 has been a legal requirement since 2001, few Maine schools succeed in offering curriculum and teachers struggle to find resources and time to learn how and what they should be teaching in Wabanaki Studies. By permanently establishing the position of Wabanaki Studies Specialist in the Maine Department of Education, the bill ensures the inclusion of Wabanaki Studies in essential instruction and graduation requirements. Maine is behind the curve in teaching Indigenous studies, compared with other states which have funded teams of employees to support statewide instruction on Indigenous studies. A meaningful first step for Maine will be to create the permanent Wabanaki Studies Specialist position and to ensure proper compensation for Wabanaki advisors working on curriculum and teacher development.