



Department of the Secretary of State

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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Testimony of Kate McBrien, Maine State Archivist

Department of the Secretary of State

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Testifying In Support

L.D. 1642, "An Act to Strengthen the Teaching of Wabanaki Studies in Maine Schools"

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, my name is Kate McBrien and I am the Maine State Archivist. I am speaking today in support of LD 1642.

Title 5, Chapter 6 of the Maine Revised Statute defines the purpose and scope of the Maine State Archives in service to both the Maine State Government and the people of Maine. Specifically, §92 states: "The Legislature declares that it is the policy of the State to make the operations of State Government and local government more efficient, more effective and more economical through records management; and, to the end that people may derive maximum benefit from a knowledge of state affairs, preserve its records of permanent value for study and research."

It is that responsibility to preserve state records for the purpose of study and research that brings me before you today. The Maine State Archives is pleased support LD 1642 for its strong focus to bring historical materials and resources to Maine schools for the inclusion of Wabanaki studies in education curricula. Both the work of the Wabanaki Studies Commission and the implementation of a regular teacher institute in Wabanaki studies will help to make available the important historical documentation and lesson resources to schools throughout the state. The Maine State Archives offers our assistance in this effort, by making widely available those state records related to the Wabanaki communities and held within our collections.

This concludes my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have. Thank you.