

WABANAKI LEGISLATION: WHAT'S NEXT?



What Tribal issues will likely appear in the next legislative session?



The 2020 Task Force Recommendations give us a good idea of what to expect.

Wabanaki Nations:

Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians
Mi'kmaq Nation
Penobscot Nation
Passamaquoddy Tribe
at Motahkomikuk and Sipayik

Did you know that...

unlike the 500+ other federally-recognized tribes, the Wabanaki Nations are the only ones who are denied their inherent right to sovereignty?

This is due to...

1980 settlements between the Wabanaki Nations, the State of Maine and the federal government.

To rectify the problems the settlements caused...

the Maine Legislature established a task force to recommend changes to the settlements. After six months of deliberation, the Maine Indian Claims Task Force issued **22 official recommendations** in January 2020.

The **22** recommendations,
are grouped into **9** categories.

The number of recommendations per category is shown below:

Every session since 2020, legislators have proposed bills based on these recommendations, and we can expect a similar pattern in upcoming sessions.



Tribal-State Collaboration and Consultation (x1)



Land Use and Natural Resources (x1)



Civil Jurisdiction (x2)



Criminal Jurisdiction (x5)



Taxing Authority (x6)



Federal Law Provisions (x1)



Fish and Game (x3)



Gaming (x1)



Trust Land Acquisition (x2)

WABANAKI SOVEREIGNTY: OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL



Wabanaki Sovereignty is good for Maine

Tribal Sovereignty: the right of tribes to govern their communities, to preserve their culture, and to control their own economies and properties.

Impacts of Wabanaki Sovereignty:

- ✓ Over **2,000 new jobs** for non-tribal Mainers
- ✓ An increase in Maine's GDP of **\$330 million** per year
- ✓ **Tens of millions of dollars** of government revenue at tribal, state/local, and federal levels
- ✓ Enhanced ability of tribes to dedicate more resources to **environmental protection**
- ✓ Potential for a state-wide **atmosphere of cooperation** in a mutually-beneficial relationship with tribes
- ✓ A collective sense of **"we did what was right"**

Source: "Economic and Social Impacts of Restrictions on the Applicability of Federal Indian Policies to the Wabanaki Nations in Maine" | The Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development, 2022

A marathon, not a sprint:



4 recommendations, all under the category "criminal jurisdiction," have already been, or will soon be, adopted. This is exciting, but progress still needs to be made.



Of the 22 recommendations, 14 of them are about applying federal law as it is applied to 500+ other tribal nations across the country.

"It's time to heal old wounds..."

...because of the findings of the bipartisan, bicameral Task Force, [we know] that *the best thing for all of Maine's people* is to modernize these old archaic settlement acts."

Penobscot Nation Tribal Ambassador and Wabanaki Alliance Board President Maulian Bryant

Read the Task Force recommendations online:



wabanakialliance.com /taskforce-explainer