

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANT
CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS ACADIANS HAVE
MADE TO OUR STATE AND NEW BRUNSWICK**

WHEREAS, Acadia refers to the area of early French settlement in colonial times in what is now Maine and the Canadian Maritime Provinces, including our neighbor, New Brunswick, and this area retains its ancient and proud French heritage and language; and

WHEREAS, Maine Acadian culture can be found everywhere in the St. John Valley in Aroostook County: it can be seen in the predominance of French given names and place-names; in the architecture of houses, churches, potato houses and twin barns; in the cultivation of potatoes and buckwheat; and in local arts; and

WHEREAS, Maine Acadian can be tasted in traditional foods and heard in casual conversations and stage performances and read about in books; and

WHEREAS, the cultural identity of Maine Acadians is directly tied to retaining strong connections to family, religion and the land; and

WHEREAS, despite significant changes in social and economic life, Maine Acadian family names, religious affiliation and connection to the land remain potent markers of cultural identity; and

WHEREAS, the characteristic features of Maine Acadian cultural identity are rooted in the shared values, ideas and practices passed on from one generation to the next; and

WHEREAS, Maine Acadians have historically used the French language to transmit cultural knowledge, particularly oral traditions, and today French is learned as a first or second language throughout the State of Maine, including in other Franco-American communities; and

WHEREAS, clubs and organizations to promote Acadian and French culture and language in the State have sprung up in past years, including many at the local level and the Francophone Caucus at the Maine State House in Augusta; and

WHEREAS, throughout Maine history, Maine Acadians have held prominent positions in all of State Government, including the legislative and judicial branches and at all local levels of government; and

WHEREAS, the French language and other expressive traditions further contribute to the distinctiveness of Maine Acadian culture within the United States and the culture of Acadians in neighboring New Brunswick, and these ties bind the two nations closer together; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the members of the One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Maine, now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, join together in recognizing the importance of the cultural and historical significance and contributions of Acadian residents of our State; and be it further

SP0210, LD 8888, item 1, 124th Maine State Legislature
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RESOLVED: That, as we recognize the significance of Acadian culture in the State of Maine, we join together to support the consideration of Maine and New Brunswick by the Societe Nationale de l'Acadie as the host for the 2014 World Acadian Congress.