

### **§6209-C. Jurisdiction of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians Tribal Court**

**1. Exclusive jurisdiction over certain matters.** Except as provided in subsections 3 and 4, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians has the right to exercise exclusive jurisdiction, separate and distinct from the State, over:

A. The following criminal offenses committed on Houlton Band Jurisdiction Land by an adult member of any federally recognized Indian tribe, nation, band or other group:

(1) Class C, D and E crimes in Titles 15, 17, 17-A, 19-A and 29-A that are not committed against a person or the property of a person; and

(2) Class C, D and E crimes committed against a person who is a member of any federally recognized Indian tribe, nation, band or other group or against the property of a person who is a member of any federally recognized Indian tribe, nation, band or other group.

The Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians may not deny to any criminal defendant prosecuted for a Class C crime the rights and protections enumerated in 25 United States Code, Section 1302(c); [PL 2023, c. 647, Pt. C, §1 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 647, Pt. C, §5 (AFF).]

B. Juvenile crimes against a person or property involving conduct that, if committed by an adult, would fall within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians under paragraph A and juvenile crimes, as defined in Title 15, section 3103, subsection 1, paragraphs B and C, committed by a juvenile member of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation or the Mi'kmaq Nation within Houlton Band Jurisdiction Land; [PL 2023, c. 369, Pt. D, §6 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 369, Pt. D, §8 (AFF).]

C. Civil actions between members of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation or the Mi'kmaq Nation arising on Houlton Band Jurisdiction Land and cognizable as small claims under the laws of the State and civil actions against a member of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation or the Mi'kmaq Nation under Title 22, section 2383 involving conduct within Houlton Band Jurisdiction Land by a member of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation or the Mi'kmaq Nation; [PL 2023, c. 369, Pt. D, §6 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 369, Pt. D, §8 (AFF).]

D. Indian child custody proceedings to the extent authorized by applicable state and federal law; [PL 2023, c. 369, Pt. D, §6 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 369, Pt. D, §8 (AFF).]

E. Other domestic relations matters, including marriage, divorce and support, between members of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation or the Mi'kmaq Nation, both of whom reside within the Houlton Band Jurisdiction Land; and [PL 2023, c. 369, Pt. D, §6 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 369, Pt. D, §8 (AFF).]

F. Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, civil and criminal actions regarding the enforcement of ordinances enacted pursuant to section 6207-C, subsection 10, except that the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians may not exercise jurisdiction over a nonprofit public municipal corporation. [PL 2023, c. 369, Pt. D, §6 (NEW); PL 2023, c. 369, Pt. D, §8 (AFF).]

The governing body of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians shall decide whether to exercise or terminate the exercise of the exclusive jurisdiction authorized by this subsection. The decision to exercise, to terminate the exercise of or to reassert the exercise of jurisdiction under each of the subject areas described by paragraphs A to E may be made separately. Until the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians notifies the Attorney General that the band has decided to exercise exclusive jurisdiction set forth in any or all of the paragraphs in this subsection, the State has exclusive jurisdiction over those matters. If the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians chooses not to exercise or chooses to terminate its exercise of exclusive jurisdiction set forth in any or all of the paragraphs in this subsection, the State

has exclusive jurisdiction over those matters until the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians chooses to exercise its exclusive jurisdiction. When the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians chooses to reassert the exercise of exclusive jurisdiction over any or all of the areas of the exclusive jurisdiction authorized by this subsection it must first provide 30 days' notice to the Attorney General. In exercising its exclusive jurisdiction under paragraphs A and B, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians is enforcing the tribal law of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians.

[PL 2023, c. 647, Pt. C, §1 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 647, Pt. C, §5 (AFF).]

**1-A. Exclusive jurisdiction over Penobscot Nation members.**

[PL 2023, c. 369, Pt. D, §6 (RP); PL 2023, c. 369, Pt. D, §8 (AFF).]

**REVISOR'S NOTE:** (Subsection 1-A as enacted by PL 2009, c. 384, Pt. E, §2 and affected by §3 is REALLOCATED TO TITLE 30, SECTION 6209-C, SUBSECTION 1-B)

**1-B. (REALLOCATED FROM T. 30, §6209-C, sub-§1-A) Exclusive jurisdiction over Passamaquoddy Tribe members.**

[PL 2023, c. 369, Pt. D, §6 (RP); PL 2023, c. 369, Pt. D, §8 (AFF).]

**1-C. Concurrent jurisdiction over certain criminal offenses.** The Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians has the right to exercise jurisdiction, concurrently with the State, over the following criminal offenses:

A. Class C, D and E crimes committed on Houlton Band Jurisdiction Land by an adult member of any federally recognized Indian tribe, nation, band or other group against a person who is not a member of any federally recognized Indian tribe, nation, band or other group or against the property of a person who is not a member of any federally recognized Indian tribe, nation, band or other group; and [PL 2023, c. 647, Pt. C, §2 (NEW); PL 2023, c. 647, Pt. C, §5 (AFF).]

B. Class C, D and E crimes committed on Houlton Band Jurisdiction Land by a person who is not a member of any federally recognized Indian tribe, nation, band or other group as authorized in the federal Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022, Public Law 117-103, Division W, Title VIII, Subtitle A, Section 804, 25 United States Code, Section 1304. Notwithstanding subsection 2, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians may not deny to any criminal defendant prosecuted pursuant to this paragraph the rights and protections enumerated in 25 United States Code, Sections 1302(a), 1302(c), 1303 and 1304(d) and all other rights whose protection is necessary under the United States Constitution in order for Congress or the State to recognize concurrent jurisdiction under this paragraph. [PL 2023, c. 647, Pt. C, §2 (NEW); PL 2023, c. 647, Pt. C, §5 (AFF).]

The Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians may not deny to any criminal defendant prosecuted for a Class C crime the rights and protections enumerated in 25 United States Code, Section 1302(c).

The governing body of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians shall decide whether to exercise or terminate the exercise of jurisdiction authorized by this subsection. In exercising the concurrent jurisdiction authorized by this subsection, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians is enforcing the tribal law of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians. The definitions of the criminal offenses and the punishments applicable to those criminal offenses over which the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians has concurrent jurisdiction under this subsection are governed by the laws of the State. Issuance and execution of criminal process also are governed by the laws of the State.

[PL 2023, c. 647, Pt. C, §2 (NEW); PL 2023, c. 647, Pt. C, §5 (AFF).]

**1-D. Exclusive jurisdiction of the State.** Except as provided in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B and subsection 1-C, all laws of the State relating to criminal offenses and juvenile crimes apply within Houlton Band Trust Land and the State has exclusive jurisdiction over those offenses and crimes. Notwithstanding subsections 1 and 1-C, the State has exclusive jurisdiction over:

A. All crimes and juvenile crimes committed on Houlton Band Jurisdiction Land against the State or against any office, department, agency, authority, commission, board, institution, hospital or other instrumentality of the State, including the Maine Turnpike Authority, the Maine Port Authority, the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority, the Maine Community College System, the Maine Veterans' Homes, the Maine Public Employees Retirement System, the Maine Military Authority and all similar state entities; and [PL 2023, c. 647, Pt. C, §3 (NEW); PL 2023, c. 647, Pt. C, §5 (AFF).]

B. Class C, D and E crimes defined in provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes outside of Titles 15, 17, 17-A, 19-A and 29-A committed on Houlton Band Jurisdiction Land by an adult member of any federally recognized Indian tribe, nation, band or other group that are not committed against a person or the property of a person. [PL 2023, c. 647, Pt. C, §3 (NEW); PL 2023, c. 647, Pt. C, §5 (AFF).]

Nothing in subsection 1 or 1-C affects, alters or preempts the authority of the State to investigate or prosecute any conduct occurring in the State, including conduct occurring on Houlton Band Trust Land, that is within the State's exclusive or concurrent jurisdiction.

[PL 2023, c. 647, Pt. C, §3 (NEW); PL 2023, c. 647, Pt. C, §5 (AFF).]

**2. Definitions of crimes; tribal procedures.** The definitions of the criminal offenses and juvenile crimes and the punishments applicable to those criminal offenses and juvenile crimes over which the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians has exclusive jurisdiction under this section are governed by the laws of the State. Issuance and execution of criminal process are also governed by the laws of the State. The procedures for the establishment and operation of tribal forums created to effectuate the purposes of this section are governed by federal statute, including, without limitation, the provisions of 25 United States Code, Sections 1301 to 1303 and rules and regulations generally applicable to the exercise of criminal jurisdiction by Indian tribes on federal Indian reservations.

[PL 2023, c. 647, Pt. C, §4 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 647, Pt. C, §5 (AFF).]

**2-A. Criminal records, juvenile records and fingerprinting.** At the arraignment of a criminal defendant, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians Tribal Court shall inquire whether fingerprints have been taken or whether arrangements have been made for fingerprinting. If neither has occurred, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians Tribal Court shall instruct both the responsible law enforcement agency and the person charged as to their respective obligations in this regard, consistent with Title 25, section 1542-A.

At the conclusion of a criminal or juvenile proceeding within the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians' exclusive or concurrent jurisdiction, except for a violation of Title 12 or Title 29-A that is a Class D or Class E crime other than a Class D crime that involves hunting while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs or with an excessive alcohol level or the operation or attempted operation of a watercraft, all-terrain vehicle, snowmobile or motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs or with an excessive alcohol level, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians Tribal Court shall transmit to the Department of Public Safety, State Bureau of Identification an abstract duly authorized on forms provided by the bureau.

[PL 2023, c. 369, Pt. D, §6 (NEW); PL 2023, c. 369, Pt. D, §8 (AFF).]

**3. Lesser included offenses in state courts.** In any criminal proceeding in the courts of the State in which a criminal offense under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians constitutes a lesser included offense of the criminal offense charged, the defendant may be convicted in the courts of the State of the lesser included offense. A lesser included offense is as defined under the laws of the State.

[PL 2009, c. 384, Pt. B, §1 (NEW); PL 2009, c. 384, Pt. B, §2 (AFF).]

**4. Double jeopardy; collateral estoppel.** A prosecution for a criminal offense or juvenile crime over which the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians has exclusive jurisdiction under this section does not

bar a prosecution for a criminal offense or juvenile crime arising out of the same conduct over which the State has exclusive jurisdiction. A prosecution for a criminal offense or juvenile crime over which the State has exclusive jurisdiction does not bar a prosecution for a criminal offense or juvenile crime arising out of the same conduct over which the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians has exclusive jurisdiction under this section. The determination of an issue of fact in a criminal or juvenile proceeding conducted in a tribal forum does not constitute collateral estoppel in a criminal or juvenile proceeding conducted in a state court. The determination of an issue of fact in a criminal or juvenile proceeding conducted in a state court does not constitute collateral estoppel in a criminal or juvenile proceeding conducted in a tribal forum.

[PL 2009, c. 384, Pt. B, §1 (NEW); PL 2009, c. 384, Pt. B, §2 (AFF).]

#### **5. Houlton Band Jurisdiction Land.**

[PL 2023, c. 369, Pt. D, §6 (RP); PL 2023, c. 369, Pt. D, §8 (AFF).]

**6. Full faith and credit.** The State shall give full faith and credit to the judicial proceedings of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians. The Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians shall give full faith and credit to the judicial proceedings the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation, the Mi'kmaq Nation and the State.

[PL 2023, c. 369, Pt. D, §6 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 369, Pt. D, §8 (AFF).]

#### **SECTION HISTORY**

PL 2009, c. 384, Pt. B, §1 (NEW). PL 2009, c. 384, Pt. B, §2 (AFF). PL 2009, c. 384, Pt. D, §1 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 384, Pt. D, §2 (AFF). PL 2009, c. 384, Pt. E, §2 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 384, Pt. E, §3 (AFF). RR 2011, c. 1, §45 (COR). PL 2023, c. 369, Pt. D, §6 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 369, Pt. D, §8 (AFF). PL 2023, c. 647, Pt. C, §§1-4 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 647, Pt. C, §5 (AFF).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the First Special Session of the 132nd Maine Legislature and is current through October 1, 2025. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.