

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNE 28, 2024 AS MAINE
ACADIAN DAY**

WHEREAS, in 1604, French settlers established the first European settlement in Maine on Saint Croix Island, and these settlers, known as Acadians, were adaptable and resilient, turning hardy wilderness into fertile farmland using nutrients from the sea; and

WHEREAS, Acadians endured great hardships during their settling in the Acadian region, including their expulsion between 1755 and 1764, when more than 10,000 men, women and children were forcefully deported from the region at the hands of the British governors of Nova Scotia and Massachusetts to southern colonies and British prisons, with some escaping and becoming refugees; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, a Royal Proclamation was signed in Canada that acknowledged the wrongdoings committed in the name of the English Crown during the Acadian deportation between 1755 and 1764 and established June 28th of every year as "a day of commemoration of the Great Upheaval"; and

WHEREAS, Acadians settled in the Madawaska region decades before Maine achieved statehood; and

WHEREAS, today more than 1/3 of the population of the State is of French descent, mostly of Quebecois and Acadian origin; and

WHEREAS, Franco-Americans and those of Acadian heritage have contributed greatly to the history and cultural heritage of the State; and

WHEREAS, French, and by extension Acadian, culture is celebrated throughout the State with events such as Franco-American Day; and

WHEREAS, residents who are fluent in both French and English are of great cultural and economic importance to the State; and

WHEREAS, French is the primary language for thousands of Maine residents, and a 2nd language for thousands more; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize June 28, 2024 as Maine Acadian Day in honor of the Acadian culture that holds great significance in the Saint John Valley and throughout the State.