

State of Rhode Island and Providence plantations. An act to abolish the tribal authority of the Narragansett tribe of Indians, and for other purposes. [1866?].

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

AN ACT

To Abolish the Tribal Authority of the Narragansett Tribe of Indians, and for other Purposes.

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

Section 1. All acts, and parts of acts heretofore passed and now in force which confer 2 any special authority upon the Narragansett Tribe of Indians, and all such acts as confer 3 upon the members of the said tribe any special privileges or subject them to any special 4 disabilities because of their membership of the said tribe, are hereby repealed.

Sec. 2. All rights of property heretofore vested in the members of the said tribe shall 2 continue, be preserved and enforced before all proper courts and tribunals in the same way 3 and with the same effect, as if this act had not been passed.

Sec. 3 The common tribal lands hitherto being in the occupancy of of the said tribe 2 shall be and hereby are vested in the members of the said tribe, and the descendants of such 3 members, who now are, or hereafter may become residents of the town of Charlestown 4 and such members, with their said descendants, are hereby created a corporation for the 5 purpose of holding, leasing and improving said lands, for the support of the poor, and 6 educating the children of the members of said corporation.

Sec. 4. The adult members of the said corporation shall hold a meeting on the last 2 Tuesday in March, A. D. 1867, and annually in each year thereafter, the notice of the 3 first meeting shall be issued by the town clerk of the town of Charlestown, and be served 4 by the town sergeant of said town, by posting a copy thereof upon the doors of the Indian 5 school-house, the Indian meeting-house, and in the store at Cross's mill in said Charlestown, 6 for ten days before said last Tuesday in March, and the notice for all subsequent meetings 7 shall be issued and posted in like manner by the clerk of the said corporation.

Sec. 5. At such annual meeting, and annually thereafter, the said corporation shall 2 choose three trustees, who shall have the charge and care of the property of the said 3 corporation and the care of the poor and the management of the school of the said tribe 4 with all the powers and duties of Trustees of School Districts under the laws of this state; 5 the said trustees shall apply the income

from the said lands, first to the support of the poor, 6 and then to the education of the children of the members of the said corporation, and such 7 children and corporation shall be entitled to have the moneys appropriated for the support 8 of public education in the town of Charlestown, in the same way, and to the same extent 9 as other school districts, and scholars are entitled to share the same within the said town.

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10 The said corporation may also elect a Treasurer who shall collect, account for and pay over 11 the rents and income of the said common lands upon the order of the Trustees for the uses 12 hereinbefore designated, and a clerk who shall, in addition to the duty hereinbefore prescribed, 13 keep a record of the doings of the meetings of the said corporation, and both the 14 treasurer and clerk shall in addition have all the power and authority, and be subjected to 15 all of the obligations and duties of treasurers and clerks of school districts.

Sec. 6. All members of said corporation, resident in said town of Charlestown, and 2 now or hereafter taxed upon property in said town, and the families of such persons 3 becoming paupers shall be supported and maintained, first, from the income of said common 4 lands, and then by the town of Charlestown; and all members of said tribe residing in 5 other towns or cities, and becoming paupers, shall be maintained by the town or city in 6 which they shall have resided for the longest period of time after the passage of this act, 7 prior to their so becoming paupers.

Sec. 7. The common lands herein provided, to be held by the members of the corporation 2 herein created, shall be exempt from taxation.

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