

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 745

H. P. 590

House of Representatives, February 23, 1979

On Motion of Mr. Connolly of Portland referred to the Committee on Education.
Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Dexter of Kingfield.

Cosponsor: Mr. Diamond of Windham.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

**AN ACT to Require Instruction in the Public Schools on the Ill Effects of Alcohol,
Tobacco and Other Substances.**

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

20 MRSA § 1231 is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 1231. **Temperance Day; commissioner to prepare material; continuing educational instruction on alcohol, tobacco and similar substances**

1. **Temperance Day.** The first Friday in March of each year or the school day in each year nearest that date shall be designated as Temperance Day, and in every public school in this State not less than 45 minutes of the school session shall be set apart and used for instruction and appropriate exercises relative to the history and benefits of temperance laws; these schools to continue their work so far as practicable during the remainder of the day.

It shall be the duty of the commissioner to prepare suitable material for the observance of Temperance Day. It shall be the duty of all school officials in the several administrative units of the State and all public school teachers within the State to comply with this section.

2. **Continuing instruction concerning the harmful effects of alcohol, tobacco and other similar substances.** In every public school in this State not less than 30

minutes twice each month shall be set apart and used for instruction and appropriate exercises concerning the ill effects of alcohol, tobacco and other similar substances. The commissioner shall, within the limits of available resources, assist the schools in carrying out this subsection, and the commissioner and schools may seek whatever assistance is available from the Federal Government, from state and municipal agencies and from private organizations.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill reinforces the instruction now required by Title 20, section 1231, on the history and benefits of temperance laws by adding a subsection 2 which will increase that effort by including 1/2 hour of instruction twice a month on the ill effects of alcohol, tobacco and other similar substances. At the present time, children often receive little or no instruction on the effects of alcohol, tobacco or similar substances until they are actually exposed to those substances by their peers. This bill will ensure that they understand the harmful effects of those substances before they have to actually deal with them.