



121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 699

H.P. 516

House of Representatives, February 14, 2003

Resolve, To Address Multicultural Education Needs of Maine Teachers

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. Mac Jailand

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND Clerk

Presented by Representative McKEE of Wayne. Cosponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin and Representatives: CRAVEN of Lewiston, EDER of Portland, FINCH of Fairfield, GAGNE-FRIEL of Buckfield, LAVERRIERE-BOUCHER of Biddeford, O'BRIEN of Lewiston, SULLIVAN of Biddeford.

Whereas, the State has both long-standing diverse cultural 2 Franco-Americans, groups such as Native Americans, African and Latinos and Americans, Asians significantly increasing 4 numbers of immigrants from all over the world; and 6 Whereas. the multicultural communities of Maine are expanding rapidly beyond the Portland area and resettlement of 8 immigrants is beginning to occur throughout the State; and 10 Whereas, understanding and awareness of cultural differences are crucial to a harmonious society, with schools functioning as the primary vehicle of multicultural education; and 12 Whereas, education that is 14 multicultural provides an environment that values cultural diversity and portrays it 16 positively; and 18 Whereas. educators have the responsibility under the statewide system of learning results to help students recognize 20 and understand the diverse nature of society as responsible and involved citizens; now, therefore, be it 22 Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved: That the Commission to Assess the Multicultural Education Needs of Maine Teachers, 24 referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established; 26 and be it further Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved: That the commission 28 consists of 11 members appointed by the Speaker of the House of 30 Representatives as follows: Joint Standing Committee 32 1. One member from the onEducation and Cultural Affairs: 34 One representative of the Department of Education with 2. specific expertise, knowledge, background and oversight of 36 Maine's multicultural communities or minorities and their needs; 38 One curriculum coordinator with specific experience in a 3. school or school district with high multicultural enrollment or 40 one kindergarten to grade 12 teacher with experience and interest in multicultural education; 42 One representative from each of the following groups: 44 4. Passamaquoddy Tribe; Penobscot Indian Nation; Franco-Americans; 46 and African Americans, or 4 representatives from African, Latino, Asian and Native American groups, ALANA; 48

5. One representative of the University of Maine System 2 with specific background in the preparation of teachers for kindergarten to grade 12;

- 6. One teacher of English as a 2nd language, ESL, with at
 least 5 years' experience in a Maine multicultural classroom;
- 8

16

4

7. One member of the State Board of Education; and

10 8. One at-large member with demonstrated knowledge, experience and interest in multicultural education; and be it 12 further

14 Sec. 3. Chair. Resolved: That the chair must be elected by the full commission; and be it further

Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved: That all appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this resolve. The appointing authority shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council upon making appointments. When the appointment of all members is complete, the appointing authority shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission no later than November 1, 2003; and be it further

Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved: That the commission shall study the problems Maine teachers face or will face in culturally diverse schools and classrooms. The commission shall determine what needs to be done to prepare teachers to be effective both in providing an appropriate educational program for multicultural classrooms and in helping all students to recognize and understand the diverse nature of society. In conducting this study, the commission shall:

 Request the assistance of the Department of Education,
 the State Board of Education and ALANA and invite the participation of other experts and interested parties;

38

34

2. Conduct a survey of Maine teachers to determine current 40 completed multicultural education; levels of success in multicultural classrooms; problems encountered in multicultural classrooms; knowledge of effective strategies in multicultural 42 education; resources available to teachers in multicultural classrooms; skills needed for success in multicultural education; 44 and anecdotal evidence of needs and prior knowledge of dominant Maine minority cultures, including, but not limited to, Native 46 Americans, Franco-Americans, African Americans, Asians and 48 Latinos; and

50 3. Evaluate the survey and analyze its findings; and be it further

Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved: That, upon approval of the Legislative Council, the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
 shall provide necessary staffing services to the commission; and be it further

Sec. 7. Compensation. Resolved: That the legislative members of the commission are entitled to the legislative per diem, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, and reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses related to their attendance at meetings of the commission. Public members not otherwise compensated by their employers or other entities that they represent are entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses for their attendance at authorized meetings of the commission; and be it further

Sec. 8. Report. Resolved: That the commission shall submit a report and any necessary implementing legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by February 15, 2004. The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs may submit legislation in the Second Regular Session of the 121st Legislature to implement the recommendations of the commission.

Sec. 9. Extension. Resolved: That, if the commission requires a limited extension of time to complete its study and make its report, it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may grant an extension; and be it further.

Sec. 10. Commission budget. Resolved: 30 That the chair of the commission, with assistance from the commission staff, shall administer the commission's budget. Within 10 days after its 32 first meeting, the commission shall present a work plan and proposed budget to the Legislative Council for its approval. 34 The commission may not incur expenses that would result in the commission's exceeding its approved budget. Upon request from 36 the commission, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall promptly provide the commission chair and staft with a 38 status report on the study budget, expenditures incurred and paid and available funds. 40

42

44

6

16

24

SUMMARY

This resolve creates a special commission to study the 46 multicultural needs of Maine teachers to ensure that multicultural awareness and understanding is brought to the 48 attention of all students.