

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## CHAPTER 111

## RELIGION AND MORALS

Sec

- 1221. Teaching of virtue and morality.
- 1222. Instruction on foundations of American freedom.
- 1223. Scripture reading.
- 1224. Moral instruction.
- 1225. Survey of religious affiliation.
- 1226. Rules and regulations.
- 1227. Credit for time spent at places of worship.
- 1228. Children to remain in school or attend place of worship.
- 1229. Expense.
- 1230. Provisions as permissive.
- 1231. Temperance Day; commissioner to prepare material.

**§ 1221. Teaching of virtue and morality**

The presidents, professors and tutors of colleges, the preceptors and teachers of academies and all other instructors of youth in public or private institutions, shall use their best endeavors to impress on the minds of the children and youth committed to their care and instruction the principles of morality and justice and a sacred regard for truth; love of country, humanity and a universal benevolence; sobriety, industry and frugality; chastity, moderation and temperance; and all other virtues which ornament human society; and to lead those under their care, as their ages and capacities admit, into a particular understanding of the tendency of such virtues to preserve and perfect a republican constitution, secure the blessings of liberty and to promote their future happiness and the tendency of the opposite vices, to slavery, degradation and ruin. All teachers in the public schools of the State shall devote not less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour of each week of the school term to teaching to the children under their charge, in correlation with other studies of the school curriculum, the great principles of humanity as illustrated by kindness to birds and animals and regard for all factors which contribute to the well-being of man.

R.S.1954, c. 41, § 144.

**§ 1222. Instruction on foundations of American freedom**

Pupils in the free public high schools of the State shall be given instruction in the foundations of our American freedoms

including the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Maine. The commissioner shall prescribe the course of study which course of study shall be required for graduation from all free public high schools.

1955, c. 344, § 1; 1963, c. 165.

### **§ 1223. Scripture reading**

To insure greater security in the faith of our fathers, to inculcate into the lives of the rising generation the spiritual values necessary to the well-being of our and future civilizations, to develop those high moral and religious principles essential to human happiness, to make available to the youth of our land the book which has been the inspiration of the greatest masterpieces of literature, art and music, and which has been the strength of the great men and women of the Christian era, there shall be, in all the public schools of the State, daily or at suitable intervals, readings from the scriptures with special emphasis upon the Ten Commandments, the Psalms of David, the Proverbs of Solomon, the Sermon on the Mount and the Lord's Prayer. There shall be no denominational or sectarian comment or teaching and each student shall give respectful attention but shall be free in his own forms of worship.

R.S.1954, c. 41, § 145.

### **§ 1224. Moral instruction**

The school committee or school directors of each administrative unit is authorized and empowered to provide for the moral instruction of pupils subject to the jurisdiction of such committee in the manner provided for in sections 1224 to 1230.

R.S.1954, c. 41, § 146; 1957, c. 364, § 69.

### **§ 1225. Survey of religious affiliation**

The school committee or school directors of each administrative unit may authorize and complete a survey of the religious affiliations of all pupils attending the public schools within such administrative unit, and ascertain those pupils who desire and have the consent of parent or guardian for moral instruction. On a day in each week, to be fixed by the school committee or school directors, it may excuse such pupils for at least one hour for the purpose of attending their respective places of worship,

or some other suitable place, there to receive moral instruction in accordance with the religious faith of said pupils.

R.S.1954, c. 41, § 147; 1957, c. 364, § 70; c. 443, § 23.

### § 1226. Rules and regulations

Each school committee or board of school directors is authorized to adopt rules and regulations for carrying into effect sections 1224 to 1230, and to make such arrangement with the respective persons in charge of the several denominations for the giving of the moral instruction.

R.S.1954, c. 41, § 148; 1957, c. 364, § 71.

### § 1227. Credit for time spent at places of worship

Pupils attending their several places of worship for moral instruction therein at the time specified and for the period fixed shall be credited with the time so spent as if such pupils had been in actual attendance at school.

R.S.1954, c. 41, § 149.

### § 1228. Children to remain in school or attend place of worship

Any child, who for any reason fails to receive the moral instruction, shall remain in school during the period when such instruction is being given, but such child shall not receive any educational advantage over children receiving said instruction.

R.S.1954, c. 41, § 150.

### § 1229. Expense

The moral instruction shall be given without expense to any administrative unit, the pupils of which receive such instruction, and no administrative unit, or the school committee or school directors thereof, shall incur any expense for such instruction beyond the cost of the original survey.

R.S.1954, c. 41, § 151; 1957, c. 364, § 72.

### § 1230. Provisions as permissive

It is declared to be the intent of the Legislature that sections 1224 to 1230 shall be permissive and not mandatory.

R.S.1954, c. 41, § 152.

**§ 1231. Temperance Day; commissioner to prepare material**

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; said 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.

R.S.1954, c. 41, § 153; 1957, c. 364, § 73.