

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 781

H. P. 586

House of Representatives, February 11, 1971

Referred to Committee on Education. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Farrington of Old Orchard Beach.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

**AN ACT Relating to Courses in State and Federal Government for
Graduation from High School.**

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

R. S., T. 20, § 1222, repealed and replaced. Section 1222 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

§ 1222. Instruction on foundations of American freedom

To prepare our youth to become more effective citizens, pupils in the free public high schools of the State shall be given instruction in the foundations of our American freedoms, including the Constitution of the United States and the State of Maine, American government, comparative government, the privileges and responsibilities of voting and the principles of economics. The course of study shall be approved by the commissioner and shall be required for graduation from all free public high schools.

STATEMENT OF FACT

With the voting age lowered to 18 for federal officers and with a bill in to allow 18 and 19 year olds to vote in state and local elections, it is mandatory that they receive an in-depth course in politics and government before assuming their suffrage responsibilities. It is preferable that government be studied when the students are upper classmen and have reached a point of maturity and sophistication.