

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1829

H. P. 1372

House of Representatives, April 3, 1973

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

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Connolly of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT Creating a Bill of Rights for Students of Junior and Senior High Schools.

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

R. S., T. 20, § 806, additional. Title 20 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 806, to read as follows:

§ 806. Bill of rights for students

Each school district in the State of Maine shall be required to set forth a bill of rights for all students of its junior and senior high schools. Such a bill of rights shall be established, published and made available to students, teachers, educational administrators and the general public at a date not later than 3 months after the commencement of the 1973-74 school year.

Each school district shall convene a committee for the purpose of establishing a bill of rights. It shall be the responsibility of the district's school board or school committee to initiate such a convening. The committee shall consist of a minimum of 50% students, to be selected by the student body involved, and a minimum of 25% teachers, to be selected by the teachers. The remainder of the committee shall consist of school administrators, elected school officials and parents.

The committee shall convene yearly for the purpose of reviewing and, if it is deemed necessary, for the purpose of amending the said bill of rights.

The bill of rights shall make provision for, but not be limited to, the rights of students in the following areas: Speech; the press; political activity; student elections; due process; role in the development of curriculum; dress codes and discipline rules.

Ratification of said bill of rights shall be necessary by a majority vote of the respective student bodies involved.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill would insure junior and senior high school students genuine rights of self-government. This bill would be a step toward guaranteeing students the same rights accorded all United States citizens.