

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 109

S. P. 52

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

In Senate, January 19, 1977

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary

Presented by Senator Pierce of Kennebec.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Amend the Duties of the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services Relating to Bilingual Education.

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

20 MRSA § 102, sub-§ 16, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 225, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

16. **Bilingual education.** The commissioner is empowered to cooperate with the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare in carrying out the Bilingual Education Program Act and any other federal programs as may concern the improvement of educational programs designed to meet the educational needs of children in areas with nonEnglish-speaking families.

Subject to the annual approval of the commissioner, the school committee or the school directors of any administrative unit having children from non-English-speaking families may provide programs involving bilingual education techniques designed to provide children at the elementary grades with educational experiences to enhance their learning.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to amend the provisions for bilingual education to remove the restriction on the number of years children may receive bilingual education. Some children, from homes and sections where no English is spoken, may need more than 5 years of bilingual education to acquire sufficient proficiency in English to profit from the standard curriculum.