

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (Filing No. H-122)
108TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 158, L.D. 196, Bill,
"AN ACT to Amend the Duties of the Commissioner of Educational
and Cultural Services Relating to the Teaching of Maine Studies."

Amend the Bill by striking out everything after the enacting
clause and inserting in its place the following:

'20 MRSA §102, sub-§7, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 746,
§1-A, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

7. Curriculum; public and private schools. To prescribe
minimum studies to be taught in the public schools and in
private schools approved for attendance and tuition purposes,
reserving to the officials in charge the right to prescribe
additional studies subject to his approval. The curriculum
prescribed or approved by the commissioner shall be followed
in all public and private schools approved for attendance and
tuition purposes.

A. The basic language of instruction in all school, public
and private shall be English, except as provided in this
section. However, nothing in this section shall prohibit
the teaching of any language as such in elementary schools.

B. American history and government, including the
Constitution of the United States, the Declaration of
Independence, the privileges and responsibilities of
citizenship in a free enterprise system; and Maine
studies, including history, geography, culture, economics,
environment, government and literature, shall be taught
in all schools of elementary and secondary grades,

both public and private.

C. The officials in charge of a private school founded after September 3, 1965, shall furnish the commissioner with a copy of the course of study. Schools in good standing in the Independent Secondary School Division of the New England Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools shall be exempt from this provision.

D. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the commissioner may remove basic approval from any school for cause. Whenever a school fails to meet requirements, the commissioner shall give due notice and shall hold a hearing. If the school fails to comply and does not take remedial action, the commissioner may remove basic approval;

Statement of Fact

The purpose of this amendment is to remove obsolete language and to require that Maine studies be taught in all schools. Local officials are given freedom to decide how and when these studies will be offered.

Report A of the Committee on Education.

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