

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (Filing No. H-123)
108TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "^BD" 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 the following in its place:

'20 MRSA §102, sub-~~7~~7, as last amended by PL 1975, c.746, §1-A, is repealed and the following enacted in its place: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 schools, public and private shall be English, except as provided in this section. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the teaching of any language as such in elementary schools.

B. American history and government, including the Constitu-

tion of the United States, the Declaration of Independence, the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship; 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 B of the Committee on Education.

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