

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (Filing No. H-74)
109TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 36, L.D. 47, Bill,
"AN ACT Concerning Material Required for Courses in Maine
Classrooms."

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

'§807. Objections to certain instructional material

1. Prohibition. Any parent or guardian of a public minor
school pupil may object in writing to any supplemental
required material which contains language which he deems to be
morally offensive. The material shall be clearly identified
in the letter of objection and this letter shall be sent to
the superintendent of schools of the pupil's administrative
unit.

2. Morally offensive. The term "morally offensive" as used
in this section shall not be construed to include language
describing political theories.

3. Procedure. No public school minor pupil whose parent or
guardian has complied with subsection 1 shall be required, as a
condition of satisfactory completion of any course of instruction,
to read the material identified by his parent or guardian, unless
that material has been approved by the school board, school
committee or board of directors.'

Statement of Fact

The purpose of this amendment is to permit a parent or guardian of a public school student who is a minor to prevent the student from having to read, as a condition of completing a course, any material which contains language that the parent or guardian finds morally offensive. The parent or guardian identify the material in a letter written to the superintendent of the student's administrative unit.

The description of political theories is excluded from the meaning of the term "morally offensive" for purposes of Title 20, section 807.

If the material has been approved by the school board, school committee or board of directors, the student may be required to read the material in spite of any written objection by a parent or guardian.