

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (Filing No. H-98)
110TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

"A"

HOUSE AMENDMENT/to S.P. 272, L.D. 699, Bill, "AN ACT
Providing for a Period of Silence in Public Schools."

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

'Sec. 1. 20 MRSA §1223 is repealed.

Sec. 2. 20 MRSA §1223-A is enacted to read:

§1223-A. Secular study of religious texts

The study of the Bible or other religious writings is
permissible when the intent is to examine them as pieces of
literature or when they are included in subjects in which
the history of religion is an integral part.

Sec. 3. 20 MRSA §1233 is enacted to read:

§1233. Period of silence

The school board of a school administrative unit may require,
at the commencement of the first class of each day in all grades
in all public schools in their unit, that the teacher in charge
of the room in which each class is held shall announce that a
period of silence shall be observed for reflection or meditation,
and during that period silence shall be maintained and no activities
engaged in.'

Statement of Fact

The purpose of this amendment is to provide for secular study of religious text. This would replace the current statute requiring religious reading, which is unconstitutional.

Filed by Mr. Connolly of Portland.
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of the House.

3/12/81

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