

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

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Legislative Document

No. 478

H.P. 358

House of Representatives, February 27, 1989

Reference to the Committee on Education suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Pert".

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative HANDY of Lewiston.

Cosponsored by Representative BURKE of Vassalboro and Representative CATHCART of Orono.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-NINE

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**Resolve, Requiring the Department of Educational and Cultural Services to Study Textbooks in Schools and School Libraries of the State.**

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(EMERGENCY)



1           **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts and resolves of the  
Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after  
3 adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

5           **Whereas,** books used by and available to schoolchildren in  
Maine are of invaluable importance to the quality of education  
7 those school children receive; and

9           **Whereas,** the quality and availability of school books are  
inconsistent statewide; and

11           **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts  
13 create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of  
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately  
15 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and  
safety; now, therefore, be it

17           **Study of school books. Resolved:** That the Department of  
19 Educational and Cultural Services shall study the following:

21           1. The use and extent of sexist, racist language and  
depictions including ethnic and cultural stereotypes in textbooks;

23                   2. The historical accuracy of textbooks;

25                   3. The availability of library service to local school  
27 systems;

29                   4. Whether school library collections are current and  
sufficiently broad in scope; and

31                   5. Whether statewide standards for school libraries are  
33 advisable; and be it further

35           **Report. Resolved:** That the Department of Educational and  
Cultural Services submit its findings, recommendations for  
37 statewide standards and any accompanying legislation to the  
Legislature by January 1, 1990.

39           **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the  
41 preamble, this resolve shall take effect when approved.

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**STATEMENT OF FACT**

This resolve requires the Department of Educational and Cultural Services to study the textbooks and the library facilities in Maine schools.