

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



# 114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION - 1990

---

Legislative Document

No. 2472

---

S.P. 1000

In Senate, April 5, 1990

Reported by Senator ESTES of York for the Joint Standing Committee on Education pursuant to Joint Order S.P. 974.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

---

### STATE OF MAINE

---

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY

---

Resolve, to Encourage the Study of the Nation's Founding and Related Documents by Maine Students.

---



2           **Preamble.**   Whereas, the adoption of the Declaration of  
Independence in 1776, and the signing of the United States  
4           Constitution were principal events in the history of the United  
States, the Declaration of Independence providing the  
6           philosophical foundation on which the nation rests and the  
Constitution of the United States providing its structure of  
government; and

8  
10           **Whereas,** the Federalist Papers embody the most eloquent and  
forceful argument made in support of the adoption of our  
12           republican form of government; and

14           **Whereas,** these documents stand as the foundation of our form  
of democracy providing at the same time the touchstone of our  
16           national identity and the vehicle for orderly growth and change;  
and

18           **Whereas,** in order to function effectively in our society,  
Americans need a basic knowledge and understanding about the  
20           history of our nation, the philosophies underlying its founding  
and the principles set forth in the Declaration of Independence,  
22           codified in the Constitution of the United States and defended in  
the Federalist Papers; and

24  
26           **Whereas,** the survival of the republic requires that our  
nation's children, the future guardians of its heritage and  
28           participants in its governance, have a firm knowledge and  
understanding of its principles and history; now, therefore, be it

30           **Sec. 1. Civic literacy. Resolved:** That school boards are  
encouraged to provide, at appropriate times, for the study by all  
32           students of the nation's founding and related documents, which  
shall include at least the major principles in the Declaration of  
34           Independence, the United States Constitution and its amendments,  
and the most important of the Federalist Papers; and be it further

36  
38           **Sec. 2. Demonstrated knowledge. Resolved:** That school boards  
are encouraged to ensure that all students demonstrate knowledge  
and understanding of the nation's founding and related documents  
40           through community service programs; and be it further

42           **Sec. 3. Application through experience. Resolved:** That school  
boards are encouraged to provide multiple experiences during  
44           school activities and through community-based programs to expose  
all students to the principles that exemplify the values inherent  
46           in the nation's founding and related documents; and be it further

48           **Sec. 4. Passing grades. Resolved:** That school boards are  
encouraged to include among the requirements for graduation from  
50           high school a passing grade in all courses that include primary  
instruction in the Declaration of Independence, the United States

2 Constitution and its amendments, and the most important of the  
Federalist Papers; and be it further

4 **Sec. 5. Curriculum. Resolved:** That the Department of  
Educational and Cultural Services, the school boards and the  
6 teacher education preparation programs at post-secondary  
educational institutions in the State, as appropriate, are  
8 encouraged to establish curriculum content and provide for  
in-service and preservice teacher training to ensure that  
10 teachers are adequately prepared and supported to carry out the  
intent and provisions of this resolve. The curriculum content  
12 established should include a review of the contributions made by  
Americans of all races during the period in which our nation was  
14 founded; and be it further

16 **Sec. 6. Report. Resolved:** That the Commissioner of  
Educational and Cultural Services shall include in the annual  
18 report to the Legislature an update on the implementation of this  
resolve.

20  
22 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

24  
26 The purpose of this resolve is to promote the study and  
understanding of the importance of the philosophies underlying  
the founding of this country as set forth in the Declaration of  
28 Independence, codified in the Constitution of the United States  
and explained in the Federalist Papers. School administrative  
30 units are encouraged to provide appropriate learning  
opportunities for students on those subjects and to require  
32 demonstration of familiarity with them. The Commissioner of  
Educational and Cultural Services is urged to include questions  
34 on the founding documents in the Maine Education Assessment tests  
and is directed to report on the effect of this Act in the annual  
36 report to the Legislature.