

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

No. 593

S.P. 179

In Senate, February 23, 1993

An Act Related to Parenting Education.

Reference to the Committee on Education suggested and ordered printed.

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

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator HANDY of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Senator: PARADIS of Aroostook, Representatives: CATHCART of Orono,
FARNSWORTH of Hallowell, GWADOSKY of Fairfield, HOLT of Bath, JOSEPH of
Waterville, PFEIFFER of Brunswick, PINEAU of Jay.

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Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4730 is enacted to read:

§4730. Parenting education

1. Local school responsibility. Each school administrative unit shall offer a one-semester elective course in parenting education.

2. Department responsibility. The department shall provide statewide coordination for the parenting education course and develop a model curriculum for the course. The model curriculum must include, but is not limited to, instruction in the following areas:

A. Child growth and development, including prenatal development;

B. Parenthood readiness, roles, responsibilities and financial obligations;

C. Characteristics of effective parents and caregivers;

D. Prevention of child abuse;

E. Parental involvement in intellectual and social development of children;

F. Parenting skills, including positive reinforcement and development of self-esteem;

G. Communication skills;

H. Conflict resolution;

I. Care and guidance of children based on knowledge of their psychosocial, intellectual, language and physical development; and

J. Community resources available to families.

The model curriculum may be adapted by individual school administrative units according to local needs.

3. Implementation. The department shall establish the model curriculum by January 1, 1994. School administrative units shall utilize an already employed qualified teacher to teach the parenting course required by this section beginning in September 1994.

4. Rulemaking. The department shall adopt rules establishing the criteria for qualified teachers.

STATEMENT OF FACT

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4 This bill requires school administrative units to offer an
6 elective parenting education course beginning in the fall of
8 1994. The Department of Education is required to develop a model
10 curriculum for the course that may be adapted by school
administrative units to meet local needs. The course will be
taught by a qualified teacher already employed in local schools.
The department must also adopt rules establishing the criteria
for a qualified teacher.