

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1791

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DATE: April 1, 1996 (Filing No. S- 565)

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
117TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE AMENDMENT " B " to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 701, L.D. 1791, Bill, "An Act to Initiate Education Reform in Maine"

Amend the amendment in section 1 in that part designated "§6209." by inserting after subsection 2 the following:

'3. Criteria. Content standards must be developed in compliance with the following criteria:

A. The paramount purpose of the standards is to improve academic performance; the standards must be firmly grounded in the well-accepted disciplines of a sound education;

B. The standards may not focus on social, behavioral and moral issues that do not lend themselves to standard-setting mechanisms;

C. The standards must define with clarity and specificity the essential knowledge to be learned and the skills to be acquired within each discipline. They must combine both knowledge and skills without pursuing one at the expense of the other;

D. The standards may not cover everything to be taught but must leave room for curriculum flexibility at the local level;

E. Standards may illustrate, but not dictate, the methods by which material is to be taught;

R. 18.

SENATE AMENDMENT "B" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 701,
L.D. 1791

- 2 F. Standards must be defined grade-by-grade in a framework
- 4 that will ease a student's transition from one school to
- 6 another;
- 8 G. The standards must provide an objective means for
- 10 parents and teachers to measure each student's academic
- 12 progress;
- 14 H. The standards must be rigorous, challenging and
- 16 competitive with those from other states and societies;
- 18 I. The standards must include accommodations for students
- with special needs; and
- 20 J. The standards must be upgraded periodically to reflect
- 22 societal change and expected improvements in student
- 24 proficiency.'

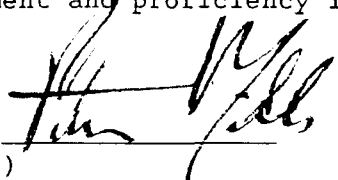
26 Further amend the amendment in section 8 in the 7th line
 28 (page 6, line 27 in amendment) by inserting after the following:
 30 "results." the following: 'The Department of Education shall
 32 adapt the MEA as may be necessary to focus on measuring
 34 individual student achievement and proficiency in academic
 36 subjects.'

FISCAL NOTE

38 The additional costs associated with using specific criteria
 40 in the development of content standards and with adapting the
 42 Maine Education Assessment can be absorbed by the Department of
 44 Education utilizing existing budgeted resources.

SUMMARY

46 This amendment establishes criteria by which the content
 48 standards must be developed and requires the Department of
 50 Education to adapt the Maine Education Assessment to focus on
 student achievement and proficiency in academic subjects.

SPONSORED BY: 
 (Senator MILLS)

COUNTY: Somerset