

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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m
R. & S.

L.D. 1791

2 DATE: March 29, 1996 (Filing No. S-550)
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6 **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

8 Reported by: The Minority of the Committee.

10 Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary
12 of the Senate.

14 **STATE OF MAINE**
SENATE
16 **117TH LEGISLATURE**
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

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

22 Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting
24 the following:

26 **'Resolve, to Further Refine Education Reform in Maine'**

28 Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the
30 title and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place
the following:

32 **'Sec. 1. Legislature affirms commitment to improving the principles**
of education reform. **Resolved:** That the members of the 117th
Legislature affirm our commitment to improving the basic
34 principles of education reform; and be it further

36 **Sec. 2. School administrative units to review changes, costs and**
potential improvements to learning standards. Resolved: That each
38 school administrative unit shall review the learning standards
set forth in the report of the Task Force on Learning Results,
40 established pursuant to Public Law 1993, chapter 290, as well as
at least one example of learning standards that have been adopted
42 in another state. The learning standards adopted by another
state must include grade-by-grade student performance
44 indicators. School administrative units may request assistance
from regional representatives from the Department of Education in
46 conducting the review. The review of learning standards must be
developed in accordance with the following criteria.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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

- 2 1. The performance purpose of the standards is to improve
academic performance.
- 4 2. The standards must be firmly grounded in academic
6 content and the well-accepted disciplines of a sound education.
- 8 3. The standards may not focus on social, behavioral and
10 moral issues that do not lend themselves to a standard-setting
mechanism.
- 12 4. The standards must outline the essential knowledge to be
learned and the skills to be acquired in each subject area.
- 14 5. Each standard must be clear and specific.
- 16 6. Standards must be defined grade-by-grade in a framework
18 that provides effective guidance to all participants in the
educational system.
- 20 7. The standards must facilitate a student's transition
22 from one school to another within the State.
- 24 8. The standards may not attempt to cover everything to be
taught but must focus on what is essential for students to learn.
- 26 9. The standards must be rigorous, challenging and
28 competitive with those that prevail in other states and societies.
- 30 10. The standards must both motivate and measure student
performance.
- 32 11. Content standards must define the knowledge and skills
34 essential to each discipline.
- 36 12. Performance standards must specify the level of
competence necessary to measure attainment of the content
38 standards.
- 40 13. Standards must include multiple performance levels.
- 42 14. Standards must combine both knowledge and skills
without pursuing one at the expense of the other.
- 44 15. Standards may illustrate, but not dictate, the methods
46 by which material is to be taught.
- 48 16. The standards must be written clearly enough that both
parents and teachers understand what is expected of students and
50 can use the standards as a practical means of measuring progress.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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

2 administrative unit to provide to the Commissioner of Education a
report on the projected program changes and the costs associated
4 with implementation of those changes. The Commissioner of
Education is directed to compile the reports and prepare a review
6 and analysis in accordance with the same criteria used by school
administrative units, accompanied by any necessary implementing
8 legislation, for submission to the Legislature by December 30,
1997.

10 This amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.