

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 365

DATE: 4-10-97

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EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
118TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 301, L.D. 365, Bill, "An Act to Require That Public Schools Adopt a Conflict Resolution Model"

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

**'Resolve, to Encourage Public Schools to Adopt a Conflict Resolution Model'**

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

**'Preamble. Whereas,** recent statistics indicate that 51% of violence in Maine involves family violence, that there has been an increase in violent crimes and violent acts engaged in by Maine youths and that the suicide rate among Maine teens has risen; and

**Whereas,** the ways that many young people learn to deal with conflict and differences often divide them and inhibit their ability to confront common problems and to deal constructively with differences and conflicts; and

**Whereas,** through conflict resolution education and peer mediation training, children learn self-respect and respect for others, tolerance of differences and how to communicate their anger, fears and other feelings in a constructive, nonthreatening and nonviolent manner; and

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

R.S.

2           **Whereas,** many educators are already trying to offer  
conflict resolution education and peer mediation training in  
4 their schools and need the support of the people of Maine in a  
comprehensive effort to make conflict management an integral part  
6 of our public school education; and

8           **Whereas,** educators and students can develop conflict  
resolution skills in a number of ways, including the direct  
10 instruction of specific skills, the infusion of concepts and  
principles into the existing curriculum, the modeling of  
12 constructive conflict resolution behavior by teachers and student  
peers, the development of peer mediation programs and the  
14 promotion of school discipline policies and practices that  
advocate mutual understanding of needs and concerns; now,  
16 therefore, be it

18           **Sec. 1. Department of Education authorized to support conflict  
resolution education initiatives. Resolved:** That the Department of  
Education shall support appropriate conflict resolution education  
20 and professional development opportunities for public school  
teachers, administrators and students in the State. These  
22 opportunities must include:

24           1. Supporting the Maine School Management Association's  
efforts to promote existing conflict resolution models in our  
26 public schools to school board members and superintendents across  
the State through its newsletter, brochures and the inclusion of  
28 a conflict resolution session at its 1997 fall conference;

30           2. A session focusing on conflict resolution education  
models in the 1997 program of the Commissioner of Education's  
32 summer conference;

34           3. Continuing the needs assessment and program development  
initiatives of the department's student assistance team in  
36 supporting conflict management and peer mediation programs;

38           4. Encouraging the department's support team to advocate  
for the inclusion of conflict resolution and professional  
40 development course work as appropriate activities that may be  
included in the teacher recertification process; and  
42

44           5. Conducting a survey to determine the status and types of  
various conflict resolution education and peer mediation models  
46 that are currently used in public schools in the State; and be it  
further

48           **Sec. 2. Reporting date established. Resolved:** That the  
Commissioner of Education shall report findings and any  
50 recommendations that result from this survey to the Joint  
Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January  
52 30, 1998.'

# COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

2 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the  
summary the following:

4  
6 **FISCAL NOTE**

8 The additional costs associated with conducting a survey  
10 related to conflict resolution and reporting on the survey  
results can be absorbed by the Department of Education utilizing  
12 existing budgeted resources.'

14 **SUMMARY**

16 This amendment replaces the bill and adds a fiscal note. It  
18 creates a resolve to encourage the Department of Education to  
support conflict resolution education initiatives and to conduct  
20 a survey of conflict resolution education models currently used  
in public schools in the State.