

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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M
R. of S.

L.D. 1305

DATE: 4-29-99

(Filing No. H-317)

MAJORITY
EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
119TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 928, L.D. 1305, Bill, "An Act to Establish and Fund Conflict Resolution Programs in the Public Schools"

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

'An Act to Establish and Fund Conflict Resolution Education and Civil Rights Team Programs in the Public Schools'

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

'Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §262 is enacted to read:

§262. Violence prevention and intervention

The commissioner shall provide technical assistance to school administrative units that request assistance in the provision of violence prevention and intervention training programs for teachers, school staff and students. The assistance must emphasize conflict resolution education, peer mediation and early identification of and response to signs of violence.

Sec. 2. Department of Education grant program providing technical assistance to schools for conflict resolution training and peer mediation programs. The Department of Education shall establish a grant program to initiate and continue support for conflict resolution education and peer mediation programs in schools. The Department of Education shall establish procedures for applying for grants, criteria for awarding grants and a process for evaluating and replicating successful programs.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

R. of S.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 928, L.D. 1305

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1999-00 2000-01

APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS

General Fund \$150,000 \$150,000

This bill includes General Fund appropriations of \$100,000 in each of fiscal years 1999-00 and 2000-01 for the Department of Education for conflict resolution and peer mediation programs. The department will incur some minor additional costs to establish and administer a grant program and provide technical assistance to school administrative units. These costs can be absorbed within the department's existing budgeted resources.

This bill also includes General Fund appropriations of \$50,000 in each of fiscal years 1999-00 and 2000-01 for the Department of the Attorney General to provide in-school training of students in dealing with harassment and violence in schools.'

SUMMARY

This amendment implements part of the recommendations of the Commission to Study Providing Educators with More Authority to Remove Violent Students from Educational Settings. This amendment is the majority report of the committee and changes the title of the bill. The amendment further directs and provides funding for the Department of Education to provide technical assistance to schools in developing violence prevention and intervention training for educators, staff and students that emphasize conflict resolution education, peer mediation and early identification and response to signs of violence. The amendment also establishes a grant program to be administered by the Department of Education to support the establishment of conflict resolution and peer mediation programs in schools. Finally, the amendment provides funding support for the Attorney General's Civil Rights Team Project.