

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

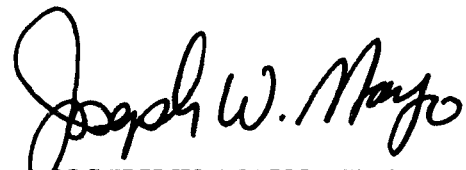
No. 1759

H.P. 1230

House of Representatives, March 9, 1999

**Resolve, Creating a Commission to Study the Multicultural Education
Needs of Maine Teachers to Ensure Multicultural Awareness and
Understanding for All Maine Students.**

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative McKEE of Wayne.
Cosponsored by Senator PARADIS of Aroostook and
Representatives: BAKER of Bangor, BELANGER of Caribou, BRENNAN of Portland,
SIROIS of Caribou, TOWNSEND of Portland, WATSON of Farmingdale, Senators:
CATHCART of Penobscot, TREAT of Kennebec.

2 **Whereas,** the State has both long-standing diverse cultural
3 groups such as Native Americans, Franco-Americans, African
4 Americans and Latinos as well as significantly increasing numbers
5 of immigrants from all over the world; and

6 **Whereas,** the multicultural communities of Maine are
7 expanding rapidly beyond the Portland area and resettlement of
8 immigrants is beginning to occur throughout the State; and

10 **Whereas,** understanding and awareness of cultural differences
11 are crucial to a harmonious society with schools functioning as
12 the primary vehicle of multicultural education; and

14 **Whereas,** education that is multicultural provides an
15 environment that values cultural diversity and portrays it
16 positively; and

18 **Whereas,** educators have the responsibility under the
19 statewide system of learning results to help students recognize
20 and understand the diverse nature of society as responsible and
21 involved citizens; now, therefore, be it

22 **Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved:** That the Commission
23 to Assess the Multicultural Education Needs of Maine Teachers,
24 referred to in this resolve as the "commission," is established;
25 and be it further

28 **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That the commission
29 consists of 11 members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
30 Representatives:

32 1. One member from the Joint Standing Committee on
33 Education and Cultural Affairs;

34 2. One representative of the Department of Education with
35 specific expertise, knowledge, background and oversight of
36 Maine's multicultural communities or minorities and their needs;

38 3. One curriculum coordinator with specific experience in a
39 school or school district with high multicultural enrollment or
40 one kindergarten to grade 12 teacher with experience and interest
41 in multicultural education;

44 4. One representative from each of the following groups:

46 A. Maine Native American tribes;

48 B. Franco-Americans;

50 C. African Americans; or

2 D. Three representatives from African, Latino and
4 Native-American Society, ALANA;

6 5. One representative of the University of Maine System
8 with specific background in the preparation of teachers for
10 kindergarten to grade 12;

12 6. One teacher of English as a 2nd language, ESL, with at
14 least 5 years experience in a Maine multicultural classroom;

16 7. One member of the State Board of Education; and

18 8. One at-large member with demonstrated knowledge,
20 experience and interest in multicultural education; and be it
22 further

24 **Sec. 3. Chair. Resolved:** That the chair must be elected by
26 the full commission; and be it further

28 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening commission. Resolved:** That all
30 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the
32 effective date of this resolve. The appointing authority shall
34 notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council upon
36 making appointments. When the appointment of all members is
38 complete, the appointing authority shall call and convene the
40 first meeting of the commission no later than November 1, 1999;
42 and be it further

44 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall study the
46 problems Maine teachers face or will face in culturally diverse
48 schools and classrooms. The commission shall determine what
needs to be done to prepare teachers to be effective both in
providing an appropriate educational program for multicultural
classrooms and in helping all students to recognize and
understand the diverse nature of society. In conducting this
study, the commission shall:

1. Request the assistance of the Department of Education,
the State Board of Education and ALANA and invite the
participation of other experts and interested parties;

2. Conduct a survey of Maine teachers to determine current
levels of completed multicultural education; success in
multicultural classrooms; problems encountered in multicultural
classrooms; knowledge of effective strategies in multicultural
education; resources available to teachers in multicultural
classrooms; skills needed for success in multicultural education;
and anecdotal evidence of needs and prior knowledge of dominant

2 Maine minority cultures, including, but not limited to, Native
Americans, Franco-Americans, African Americans, and Latinos; and

4 3. Evaluate the survey and analyze its findings; and be it
6 further

8 **Sec. 6. Report. Resolved:** That the commission shall submit a
report and any necessary implementing legislation to the Joint
10 Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by February
15, 2000. The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural
12 Affairs may submit legislation in the Second Regular Session of
the 119th Legislature to implement the recommendations of the
14 commission.

16 **SUMMARY**

18 This resolve creates a special commission to study the
multicultural needs of Maine teachers to ensure that
20 multicultural awareness and understanding is brought to the
attention of all students.