

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1603

H.P. 1180

House of Representatives, March 13, 2001

An Act to Expand Family Life Education in Maine Schools.

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative FULLER of Manchester.
Cosponsored by Senator MILLS of Somerset and
Representatives: BERRY of Livermore, CUMMINGS of Portland, DAIGLE of Arundel,
KANE of Saco, PEAVEY of Woolwich, WATSON of Farmingdale, Senators: FERGUSON
of Oxford, TREAT of Kennebec.

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Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1910 is enacted to read:

§1910. Family life education

1. Definition. For the purposes of this section, "comprehensive family life education" means education of students in kindergarten to grade 12 regarding human development and sexuality, including education on family planning and sexually transmitted diseases, that is medically accurate and age-appropriate; that respects community values and encourages parental communication; that develops skills in communication, decision-making and conflict resolution; that contributes to healthy relationships; that promotes responsible sexual behavior and addresses abstinence and the use of contraception; that promotes individual responsibility and involvement regarding sexuality; and that teaches skills for responsible decision-making regarding sexuality.

2. Comprehensive family life education. The commissioner shall provide effective, comprehensive family life education for students in kindergarten to grade 12. In providing such education, the commissioner shall contract with local family planning programs, including, but not limited to, the Family Planning Association of Maine or its successor organization, to provide:

A. Training for teachers, parents and community members in the development and implementation of a family life education curriculum and in planning for an evaluation component;

B. Hiring resource staff persons to provide expert training, curriculum development, implementation and evaluation services on a statewide basis;

C. Funding to promote and coordinate community and youth forums in communities identified as having high needs;

D. Funding for training across the State, including issue management and policy development training for school boards, superintendents, principals and administrators; and

E. Funding for grants to school-based family life education programs to recognize outstanding performance and share strategies for success.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

| 2 | | 2001-02 | 2002-03 |
|----|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 4 | EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF | | |
| 6 | Learning Systems | | |
| 8 | Positions - Legislative Count | (4,000) | (4,000) |
| | Personal Services | \$192,321 | \$206,706 |
| 10 | All Other | 557,679 | 543,294 |
| 12 | Provides funds to employ 4 | | |
| 14 | Education Specialist II | | |
| 16 | positions to provide | | |
| 18 | training, curriculum | | |
| 20 | development and other | | |
| 22 | services on a statewide | | |
| 24 | basis. Funds are also | | |
| 26 | provided each year of the | | |
| 28 | biennium for local and | | |
| 30 | regional parent education | | |
| | courses in 10% of the local | | |
| | administrative school units; | | |
| | youth forums in 10 | | |
| | communities; 3 training | | |
| | sessions for school boards, | | |
| | superintendents, principals | | |
| | and administrators; and 5 | | |
| | grants for school-based | | |
| | programs. | | |
| 32 | DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION | | |
| 34 | TOTAL | <u>\$750,000</u> | <u>\$750,000</u> |

SUMMARY

38 This bill directs the Commissioner of Education to take
40 action to enhance family life education for students in
 kindergarten to high school. The bill appropriates \$750,000 for
 family life education.