

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND SPECIAL SESSION-2004

Legislative Document

No. 1915

H.P. 1417

House of Representatives, March 9, 2004

**Resolve, To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To
Study the Scope and Quality of Citizenship Education**

Reported by Representative CUMMINGS of Portland for the Commission to Study the Scope and Quality of Citizenship Education pursuant to Resolve 2003, chapter 85, section 8 and chapter 101, section 3.

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed under Joint Rule 218.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

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PART A

4 **Sec. A-1. Considering citizenship education during review of system**
of learning results. **Resolved:** That the Department of Education
6 shall consider the recommendations of the Commission to Study the
Scope and Quality of Citizenship Education, established in
8 Resolve 2003, chapter 85, related to implications for the system
of learning results when the department reviews the guiding
10 principles, the performance standards and the content indicators
of the system of learning results beginning during the 2003-2004
12 school year in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title
20-A, section 6209, subsection 4; and be it further

14 **Sec. A-2. Statewide public forums for youth. Resolved:** That the
Legislative Youth Advisory Council shall conduct a series of
16 statewide public forums on issues important to youth and invite
Legislators from the various regions of the State to participate
18 in these public forums. The Legislative Youth Advisory Council
shall submit a report including its findings and recommendations
20 no later than January 15, 2005 to the Governor, the joint
standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
22 education matters, the Judicial Department and the Task Force on
Citizenship Education established in Part B, section 1.

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PART B

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28 **Sec. B-1. Task Force on Citizenship Education established.**
Resolved: That the Department of Education and the State Board of
30 Education shall jointly establish and provide support for the
Task Force on Citizenship Education, referred to in this resolve
32 as "the task force." The task force shall address the
recommendations of the Commission to Study the Quality and Scope
34 of Citizenship Education, which was established pursuant to
Resolve 2003, chapter 85, including, but not limited to, the
36 following components:

38 1. Developing recommendations to assist the Department of
Education in its review of the guiding principles, the
40 performance standards and the content indicators of the system of
learning results, beginning with the 2003-2004 school year;

42 2. Engaging state and local educational agency officials,
44 educators, college officials, researchers, policy makers and
other key stakeholders in an effort to research, produce and
46 disseminate a resource guide to effective citizenship education
in the State;

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2 3. Examining the content of preservice education in this
State related to citizenship education and considering any
implications for teacher certification;

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6 4. Developing a plan for the creation of a civic education
and citizenship engagement index to track data on civic skills,
attitudes and behaviors of youth in this State. The task force
8 shall review the North Carolina Civic Index and other measures of
citizenship engagement and coordinate the development of an index
10 in this State that builds upon the work begun by the Muskie
School of Public Service in establishing Maine Marks: Social
12 Indicators of Child, Family and Community Well-being and the
Maine Economic Growth Council;

14
16 5. Examining in-service professional development programs
for educators in this State and identifying ways to infuse civic
skills, attitudes and behaviors into curricular and cocurricular
18 programs for students in this State; and

20 6. Examining national voter education and voter
registration models and making recommendations to the Secretary
22 of State on ways to promote voter education and voter
registration efforts for students in our secondary schools across
24 the State; and be it further

26 **Sec. B-2. Report; legislation. Resolved:** That the task force
shall submit an interim status report including any preliminary
28 findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of
the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters, to
30 the Commissioner of Education and to the State Board of Education
no later than January 15, 2005.

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34 The task force shall submit its final report, including
findings, recommendations and suggested legislation, to the joint
standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
36 education matters, the Commissioner of Education and the Chair of
the State Board of Education no later than December 5, 2005. The
38 joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction
over education matters has authority to report out legislation
40 based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 122nd
Legislature.

42 **SUMMARY**

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46 This resolve proposes to implement the recommendations of
the Commission to Study the Scope and Quality of Citizenship
Education. The resolve includes the following recommendations of
48 the commission:

2 1. That the Department of Education shall consider the
4 recommendations of the Commission to Study the Scope and Quality
6 of Citizenship Education related to implications for the system
 of learning results when it reviews the guiding principles, the
 performance standards and the content indicators of the system of
 learning results, beginning with the 2003-2004 school year;

8 2. As part of the effort recommended by the Commission to
10 Study the Scope and Quality of Citizenship Education to foster a
12 statewide dialogue regarding civic education and citizenship
14 engagement, that the Legislative Youth Advisory Council shall
16 conduct a series of statewide public forums on issues important
18 to youth and invite Legislators from the various regions of the
 State to these public forums. The Legislative Youth Advisory
 Council shall report its findings and any conclusions to the
 Governor, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
 jurisdiction over education matters, the Judicial Department and
 the Task Force on Citizenship Education; and

20 3. That the Department of Education and the State Board of
22 Education jointly shall convene the Task Force on Citizenship
 Education to address the recommendations of the Commission to
 Study the Scope and Quality of Citizenship Education.