

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 668

H.P. 460

House of Representatives, February 26, 2013

An Act To Make Agriculture Studies a Part of the Maine Curriculum

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative DAUGHTRY of Brunswick.
Cosponsored by Senator JOHNSON of Lincoln and
Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, HICKMAN of Winthrop, KENT of Woolwich,
KRUGER of Thomaston, MAKER of Calais, McCABE of Skowhegan, POULIOT of Augusta,
TURNER of Burlington.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4706**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 313, §§8 and 9, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **§4706. Instruction in American history, Maine studies, Maine Native American**
5 **history and agriculture**

6 Instruction in American history, government, citizenship ~~and~~, Maine studies and
7 agriculture must be aligned with the parameters for essential instruction and graduation
8 requirements established under section 6209.

9 **1. American history.** American history, government and citizenship, including the
10 Constitution of the United States, the Declaration of Independence, the importance of
11 voting and the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship, must be taught in and
12 required for graduation from all elementary and secondary schools, both public and
13 private.

14 **2. Maine studies.** Maine history, including the Constitution of Maine, Maine
15 geography and environment and the natural, industrial and economic resources of Maine
16 and Maine's cultural and ethnic heritage, must be taught. A required component of Maine
17 studies is Maine Native American studies, which must be included in the review of
18 content standards and performance indicators of the learning results conducted in
19 accordance with section 6209, subsection 4. The Maine Native American studies must
20 address the following topics:

- 21 A. Maine tribal governments and political systems and their relationship with local,
22 state, national and international governments;
- 23 B. Maine Native American cultural systems and the experience of Maine tribal
24 people throughout history;
- 25 C. Maine Native American territories; and
- 26 D. Maine Native American economic systems.

27 **3. Agriculture studies.** Agriculture studies must be taught in and required for
28 graduation from all elementary and secondary schools, both public and private.
29 Agriculture studies must address the following topics:

- 30 A. The importance of agriculture in the State's history and development;
- 31 B. The connections between the farm and daily life; and
- 32 C. The economics of agriculture and its importance to the State's economy.

33 **Sec. 2. Agriculture studies instruction requirements.** In developing the
34 parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements required under the
35 Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6209 for agriculture studies as set out in Title
36 20-A, section 4706, subsection 3, the Department of Education shall consult and seek
37 recommendations from the Maine Agriculture in the Classroom Council established
38 pursuant to Title 7, section 242.

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SUMMARY

This bill requires agriculture studies to be taught in elementary and secondary schools in the State for essential instruction and graduation requirements. The bill requires that agriculture studies address the importance of agriculture in the State's history and development, the connections between the farm and daily life and the economics of agriculture and its importance to the State's economy. The bill also requires the Department of Education to consult with the Maine Agriculture in the Classroom Council in developing the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements for agriculture studies.