

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 1518

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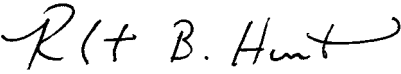
H.P. 973

House of Representatives, April 5, 2023

**An Act Regarding the Rights of Parents to Withdraw Their  
Children from Public School Classes or Activities That Include  
Certain Controversial Viewpoints**

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

  
ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative THORNE of Carmel.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4710-C** is enacted to read:

3 **§4710-C. Parental rights regarding controversial viewpoints**

4 **1. Definition.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates,  
5 "controversial viewpoints" means any ideas that espouse, promote, advance or compel  
6 students to believe any of the following concepts:

7 A. Individuals of one race, color, sex or national origin are morally superior to  
8 individuals of another race, color, sex or national origin;

9 B. An individual, by virtue of the individual's race, color, sex or national origin, is  
10 inherently racist, sexist or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously;

11 C. An individual's moral character or status as either privileged or oppressed is  
12 necessarily determined by the individual's race, color, sex or national origin;

13 D. Individuals of one race, color, sex or national origin cannot and should not attempt  
14 to treat others without regard to race, color, sex or national origin;

15 E. An individual, by virtue of the individual's race, color, sex or national origin, bears  
16 responsibility for, or should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment  
17 because of, actions committed in the past by other individuals of the same race, color,  
18 sex or national origin;

19 F. An individual, by virtue of the individual's race, color, sex or national origin, should  
20 be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment to achieve diversity, equity or  
21 inclusion;

22 G. An individual should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish or any other form of  
23 psychological distress on account of the individual's race, color, sex or national origin;  
24 and

25 H. Virtues such as merit, excellence, a strong work ethic, fairness, neutrality,  
26 objectivity and racial color blindness are racist or sexist or were created by individuals  
27 of a particular race, color, sex or national origin to oppress individuals of another race,  
28 color, sex or national origin.

29 **2. Removal from class or activity.** A parent is entitled to remove the parent's child  
30 temporarily from a class or other school activity if the class or school activity conflicts with  
31 the parent's religious or moral beliefs or if the parent considers the class or school activity  
32 to espouse, promote, advance or compel the parent's child to adopt controversial  
33 viewpoints. A parent temporarily removing a child from a class or other school activity  
34 under this section must deliver to the teacher of the parent's child a written statement  
35 authorizing the removal of the child from the class or other school activity. A parent is not  
36 entitled to remove the parent's child from a class or other school activity to avoid a test or  
37 to prevent the child from taking a subject for an entire semester.

38 **SUMMARY**

39 This bill allows a parent to remove the parent's child temporarily from a class or other  
40 school activity if the class or school activity conflicts with the parent's religious or moral

1 beliefs or if the parent considers the class or school activity to espouse, promote, advance  
2 or compel the parent's child to adopt controversial viewpoints as defined in the bill.