



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 322

H.P. 236

House of Representatives, January 31, 2017

An Act To Reintroduce Civics to High School Graduation Requirements

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative ORDWAY of Standish.
Cosponsored by Representative HARVELL of Farmington, Senator DIAMOND of
Cumberland and Representatives: BATTLE of South Portland, HARRINGTON of Sanford,
HIGGINS of Dover-Foxcroft, KINNEY of Limington, PICKETT of Dixfield, STETKIS of
Canaan, TURNER of Burlington, Senator: VOLK of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4721, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 313, §13, is
3 amended to read:

4 **1. Comprehensive program of instruction.** A secondary school shall provide a
5 comprehensive program of instruction of at least 2 years in length, which must meet the
6 requirements of this chapter and the parameters for essential instruction and graduation
7 requirements established under section 6209. The program must include instruction for
8 all students in career and education development, English language arts, health education
9 and physical education, mathematics, science and technology, social studies, visual and
10 performing arts, civics and world languages.

11 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §6209, first ¶**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 489, §3, is further
12 amended to read:

13 The department in consultation with the state board shall establish and implement a
14 comprehensive, statewide system of learning results, which may include a core of
15 standards in English language arts and mathematics for kindergarten to grade 12
16 established in common with the other states, as set forth in this section and in department
17 rules implementing this section and other curricular requirements. The department must
18 establish accountability standards at all grade levels in the areas of mathematics; reading;
19 and science and technology. The department shall establish parameters for essential
20 instruction in English language arts; mathematics; science and technology; social studies;
21 career and education development; visual and performing arts; health, physical education
22 and wellness; ~~and~~ world languages; and, for secondary schools subject to the provisions
23 of this section, civics. Only a public school, a public charter school as defined in section
24 2401, subsection 9 or a private school approved for tuition purposes that enrolls at least
25 60% publicly funded students, as determined by the previous school year's October and
26 April average enrollment, is required to participate in the system of learning results set
27 forth in this section and in department rules implementing this section and other
28 curricular requirements. The commissioner shall develop accommodation provisions for
29 instances where course content conflicts with sincerely held religious beliefs and
30 practices of a student's parent or guardian. The system must be adapted to accommodate
31 children with disabilities as defined in section 7001, subsection 1-B.

32 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §6209, sub-§2, ¶¶G and H**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 649,
33 §1, are amended to read:

34 G. Social studies; ~~and~~

35 H. Visual and performing arts; and

36 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §6209, sub-§2, ¶I** is enacted to read:

37 I. For secondary schools subject to the provisions of this section, civics.

SUMMARY

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This bill requires secondary schools to provide instruction in civics as part of the requirements for graduation.