



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2014

Legislative Document

No. 1726

H.P. 1234

House of Representatives, January 14, 2014

An Act Directing the Department of Education To Formulate and Implement a Citizenship Educational Component for the School Curriculum

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative PETERSON of Rumford.
Cosponsored by Senator JOHNSON of Lincoln and
Representatives: DAUGHTRY of Brunswick, KORNFIELD of Bangor, MacDONALD of Boothbay.

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 and Maine Native American**
5 **studies**

6 Instruction in American history, government, citizenship and Maine studies must be
7 aligned with the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements
8 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 history,
11 organization and operation of the Federal Government, the importance of voting and the
12 privileges and responsibilities of citizenship, must be taught in and required for
13 graduation from all elementary and secondary schools, both public and private.

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

22 A. Maine tribal governments and political systems and their relationship with local,
23 state, national and international governments;

24 B. Maine Native American cultural systems and the experience of Maine tribal
25 people throughout history;

26 C. Maine Native American territories; and

27 D. Maine Native American economic systems.

28 **SUMMARY**

29 This bill amends the law requiring instruction in history, government and citizenship
30 in elementary and secondary schools. This bill specifies instruction be provided
31 concerning different models of local government and the history, organization and
32 operation of the Federal Government and of Maine government.