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No. 215

H.P. 150

House of Representatives, January 27, 2021

An Act To Require Instruction on the History of Genocide and the Holocaust

Received by the Clerk of the House on January 25, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative FECTEAU of Augusta.
Cosponsored by Senator WOODSOME of York and
Representatives: DOLLOFF of Milton Township, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor,
LIBBY of Auburn, ROCHE of Wells, SAMPSON of Alfred, STEARNS of Guilford.

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 **history and the history of genocide**

6 Instruction in American history, government, citizenship ~~and~~, Maine studies and the
7 history of genocide must be aligned with the parameters for essential instruction and
8 graduation 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 required
12 for graduation from all elementary and secondary schools, both public and private.

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

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

26 **3. History of genocide.** The history of genocide, including the Holocaust, must be
27 taught and must be included in the review of content standards and performance indicators
28 of the system of learning results conducted in accordance with section 6209, subsection 4.
29 For purposes of this subsection, "Holocaust" means the program of discriminatory and
30 genocidal laws, policies or actions targeted against discrete groups of individuals based on
31 race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, physical disability or national origin, from
32 January 1, 1933 to December 31, 1945, in Nazi Germany or in any European country allied
33 with or occupied by Nazi Germany. The teaching of the history of genocide does not have
34 to be a separate course of study.

35 **SUMMARY**

36 This bill requires that the history of genocide, including the Holocaust, be taught in
37 schools, aligned with the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements
38 and included in the review of content standards and performance indicators of the system
39 of learning results.