

STATE OF MAINE

—  
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

—  
H.P. 1235 - L.D. 1664

**An Act To Integrate African American Studies and the History of Genocide  
into the Statewide System of Learning Results**

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

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

**§4706. Instruction in American history, African American studies, Maine studies and, Maine Native American history and the history of genocide**

Instruction in American history, African American studies, government, citizenship ~~and~~, Maine studies and the history of genocide must be aligned with the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements established under section 6209.

**1. American history.** American history, government and citizenship, including the ~~Constitution of the~~ United States Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the importance of voting and the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship, must be taught in and required for graduation from all elementary and secondary schools, both public and private. African American studies must be included in the review of content standards and performance indicators of the system of learning results conducted in accordance with section 6209, subsection 4.

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

- A. Maine tribal governments and political systems and their relationship with local, state, national and international governments;
- B. Maine Native American cultural systems and the experience of Maine tribal people throughout history;
- C. Maine Native American territories; and

D. Maine Native American economic systems.

**3. History of genocide.** The history of genocide, including the Holocaust, must be included in the review of content standards and performance indicators of the system of learning results conducted in accordance with section 6209, subsection 4.

**Sec. 2. Resource development; advisory group; curriculum audit; report.** The Department of Education is responsible for fulfilling the requirements of this section.

**1. Development of resources.** The department shall identify and make available to schools resources and materials for teaching African American studies, including Maine African American studies, pursuant to this Act.

**2. Advisory group.** The department shall, within 30 days after the effective date of this Act, convene a volunteer advisory group to collect information and prepare materials for the teaching of African American studies and Maine African American studies. The advisory group must include scholars of African American history and culture; representatives from African American civil rights organizations in the State, African American history and cultural organizations and the Gerald E. Talbot Collection at the University of Southern Maine; the Maine State Archivist; and members of the public with personal experience that would inform the collection of information and preparation of materials under this section. The department shall include at least one member from the advisory group in any group or committee convened to review the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements for social studies pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6209, subsection 4.

**3. Guidance; best practices; exemplar modules.** The department shall develop guidance, best practices and exemplar modules to support the integration of African American studies and Maine African American studies into the instruction of American history and Maine history.

**4. Curriculum audit.** The department shall develop a process that supports and enables a local school administrative unit to conduct an internal audit of its curriculum to ensure an equitable representation of African American voices and an accurate historical account of African American history and culture.

**5. Reporting.** The department shall submit a report on the progress of the implementation of this Act to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters no later than April 1, 2022.

**Sec. 3. Effective date.** That section of this Act that amends the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4706 takes effect July 1, 2023.