



# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

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Legislative Document

No. 215

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H.P. 150

House of Representatives, January 27, 2021

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

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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.