

HOUSE BILL 242

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1998 Regular Session  
8lr0341  
CF 8lr0091

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By: **Delegates McHale, E. Burns, Beck, Conroy, Curran, DeCarlo, Dewberry, Doory, Dypski, Hammen, Harkins, Healey, Holt, Hurson, Hutchins, Kelly, Krysiak, Malone, Marriott, McIntosh, Montague, T. Murphy, O'Donnell, Opara, and Pitkin**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 1998

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Public Schools - Required Curriculum**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring certain public schools in the State to include certain  
4 lessons in the curriculum of students; requiring the State Board of Education to  
5 adopt regulations to implement the provisions of this Act; and generally relating  
6 to the curriculum required in public schools in the State.

7 BY adding to  
8 Article - Education  
9 Section 7-113  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

12 Preamble

13 WHEREAS, This year marks the 151st anniversary of the worst year of the  
14 mass starvation that occurred in Ireland between 1845 and 1850; and

15 WHEREAS, By 1845, the people of Ireland depended on the potato as the main  
16 ingredient of their diet and their economy, and by 1847, 90 percent of the potato crop  
17 in Ireland was diseased by the fungus, *Phytophthora infestans*; and

18 WHEREAS, Between 1845 and 1847, over one million pounds sterling worth of  
19 food was exported out of Ireland under the supervision of the British government; and

20 WHEREAS, Between 1845 and 1850, over one million people of Ireland died and  
21 over one million people emigrated from Ireland to the United States, Canada,  
22 Australia, and Britain; and

23 WHEREAS, The curriculum taught in the public schools of this State should  
24 instruct the youth of this State about this devastating tragedy of humankind that  
25 created the first boat people of modern Europe; and

1 WHEREAS, The history books that have been used to educate the students in  
2 the public schools of this State have largely neglected the suffering of the Irish people  
3 that transpired under the insensitive and systematically oppressive policies of the  
4 British government; now, therefore,

5 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
6 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

7 **Article - Education**

8 7-113.

9 (A) THE STATE BOARD SHALL REQUIRE EACH PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
10 AND EACH PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL IN THE STATE TO INSTRUCT ITS STUDENTS  
11 IN THE HISTORICAL CAUSES, EFFECTS, AND LESSONS OF THE MASS STARVATION  
12 THAT OCCURRED IN IRELAND BETWEEN 1845 AND 1850.

13 (B) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE  
14 PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
16 July 1, 1998.