

SENATE BILL 16

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1998 Regular Session
8r0091
CF 8r0341

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Senators Sfikas, Collins, Stone, Conway, Roesser, Hollinger, and Della**

Requested: July 15, 1997

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 1998

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

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

26 WHEREAS, The history books that have been used to educate the students in
27 the public schools of this State have largely neglected the suffering of the Irish people

1 that transpired under the insensitive and systematically oppressive policies of the
2 British government; now, therefore,

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

5 **Article - Education**

6 7-113.

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

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

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