

SENATE BILL 16

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1998 Regular Session
8lr0091
CF 8lr0341

(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

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: January 29, 1998

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Public ~~Schools~~ School Systems - Required Curriculum**

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

8 BY adding to
9 Article - Education
10 Section 7-113
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

13 Preamble

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

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

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

1 WHEREAS, Between 1845 and 1850, over one million people of Ireland died and
2 over one million people emigrated from Ireland to the United States, Canada,
3 Australia, and Britain; and

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

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

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

13 **Article - Education**

14 7-113.

15 (A) THE STATE BOARD SHALL REQUIRE EACH PUBLIC ~~ELEMENTARY SCHOOL~~
16 ~~AND EACH PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL~~ SCHOOL SYSTEM IN THE STATE TO
17 INSTRUCT ITS STUDENTS IN THE HISTORICAL CAUSES, EFFECTS, AND LESSONS OF
18 THE MASS STARVATION THAT OCCURRED IN IRELAND BETWEEN 1845 AND 1850.

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

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