

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 112

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 15, 1997

By Senators ADLER and McGREEVEY

1 A **SENATE RESOLUTION** calling upon the State Board of Education to replace
2 the core curriculum content standards for language arts literacy with the
3 English standards adopted by the State of Massachusetts.

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5 **WHEREAS**, In May 1996 the State Board of Education adopted core
6 curriculum content standards covering seven academic areas; and

7 **WHEREAS**, A recent analysis of the language arts literacy standards by the
8 Thomas B. Fordham Foundation ranked those standards at the very
9 bottom of comparable standards adopted by 28 other states; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Among the criticisms, the foundation noted that the language arts
11 standards do not stress the use of standard English, neglect the need to
12 teach American literature, and in many areas are impossible to decipher or
13 to measure; and

14 **WHEREAS**, The American Federation of Teachers also conducted a state-by-
15 state analysis of curriculum standards and concluded that New Jersey's
16 language arts literacy standards were not clear and thorough enough to
17 provide necessary guidance to teachers and administrators; and

18 **WHEREAS**, The Thomas B. Fordham Foundation ranked the language arts
19 standards of Massachusetts as the best of the 28 states analyzed, noting
20 that they were clear, specific and measurable; now, therefore,

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22 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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24 1. The State Board of Education is called upon to replace the core
25 curriculum content standards for language arts literacy adopted in May 1996
26 with the English standards adopted by the State of Massachusetts.

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28 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the President of
29 the Senate and attested by the Secretary of the Senate, shall be transmitted to
30 the Commissioner of Education and to the State Board of Education.

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STATEMENT

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This resolution calls upon the State Board of Education to replace the
core curriculum content standards for language arts literacy adopted in May
1996 with the English standards adopted by the State of Massachusetts.

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Calls upon State Board of Education to replace language arts standards with

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English standards adopted by State of Massachusetts.