

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 176 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY B. BOYLE, O'BRIEN, K. BOYLE, BIZZARRO, HESS, HAGGERTY, MCGEEHAN, CUTLER, SCHLOSSBERG, COHEN, FRANKEL, BROWNLEE, KORTZ, SABATINA, SANTARSIERO, MURT, KINSEY, YOUNGBLOOD AND PARKER, JANUARY 22, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JANUARY 22, 2013

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
 2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
 3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
 4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
 5 laws relating thereto," providing for Holocaust, genocide and
 6 human rights violations instruction.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
 10 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a
 11 section to read:

12 Section 1554. Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights
 13 Violations Instruction.--(a) (1) Beginning with school year
 14 2015-2016, each public school student shall receive mandatory
 15 instruction in the Holocaust, genocide and human rights
 16 violations from grade six through grade twelve. The instruction
 17 shall be integrated within the social studies and language arts
 18 courses of study required in accordance with State Board of
 19 Education regulations. Instruction may also be integrated into

1 other appropriate courses of study.

2 (2) The Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations
3 instruction shall:

4 (i) Be age appropriate.

5 (ii) Be sequential in method of study.

6 (iii) Communicate the connection between national, ethnic,
7 racial or religious intolerance and the subjects described in
8 subsection (b).

9 (iv) Communicate the impact of personal responsibility,
10 civic engagement and societal response within the context of the
11 subjects described in subsection (b).

12 (3) School districts may utilize any appropriate public or
13 private materials, personnel and other resources in developing
14 and implementing this program of instruction. The Department of
15 Education shall make available information about appropriate
16 curriculum materials upon request of a school district. School
17 districts may utilize any curriculum that complies with the
18 requirements of this subsection.

19 (b) (1) The Department of Education shall establish
20 curriculum guidelines no later than twelve (12) months after the
21 effective date of this section. The guidelines shall encourage
22 the inclusion of all of the following subjects where appropriate
23 in the instruction:

24 (i) The breadth of the history of the Holocaust, including
25 the Third Reich dictatorship, concentration camp system,
26 persecution of Jews and non-Jews, Jewish and non-Jewish
27 resistance and post-World War II trials.

28 (ii) The definition, history, response and actions taken in
29 the face of genocide, including, but not limited to, the
30 Holocaust, the Armenian genocide, the Bosnian genocide and the

1 genocide in Sudan.

2 (iii) Human rights violations.

3 (iv) Anti-Semitism, racism and the abridgment of civil
4 rights.

5 (2) The Department of Education and school districts may
6 work in consultation with organizations that provide educational
7 resources related to the Holocaust, genocide and human rights
8 violations to develop the curriculum guidelines.

9 (c) Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, the Department
10 of Education shall make available, to all school districts and
11 intermediate units, in-service training programs based upon the
12 instruction requirements established under subsection (a) and
13 the curriculum guidelines established under subsection (b).

14 (d) (1) Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, each
15 school district shall provide, as part of its in-service
16 training, programs on the Holocaust, genocide and human rights
17 violations for all instructors whose teaching responsibilities
18 include courses of study in which mandated instruction
19 concerning the Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations
20 is integrated. A school district may utilize the programs made
21 available by the Department of Education or use other
22 alternative programs.

23 (2) Employees required to complete continuing professional
24 education under section 1205.2 shall receive credit toward the
25 continuing professional education requirements where the
26 training program has been approved by the Department of
27 Education.

28 (e) The Department of Education shall provide the
29 guidelines, in-service training and any other materials
30 developed in accordance with this section to any nonpublic

1 school within this Commonwealth upon receiving a request from
2 the nonpublic school.

3 (f) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and
4 regulations necessary for the implementation of this section.

5 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.