

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILLNo. **1100** Session of
2024INTRODUCED BY MASTRIANO, CAPPELLETTI, ARGALL, BROWN AND
HUTCHINSON, MAY 17, 2024

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, MAY 17, 2024

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," in terms and courses of study,
6 further providing for Holocaust, genocide and human rights
7 violations instruction.

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

10 Section 1. Section 1554 of the act of March 10, 1949
11 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
12 amended to read:

13 Section 1554. Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights
14 Violations Instruction.--(a) (1) Beginning with school year
15 [2015-2016] 2025-2026, each school entity [may] shall offer
16 instruction in the Holocaust, genocide and human rights
17 violations to students. The instruction shall equate to at least
18 seven hours within a school year and be integrated within the
19 social studies and language arts courses of study required in
20 accordance with State Board of Education regulations.

1 Instruction may also be integrated into other appropriate
2 courses of study.

3 (2) The Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations
4 instruction permitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall:

5 (i) Be age appropriate.

6 (ii) Be sequential in method of study.

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

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

13 (3) School entities may utilize any appropriate public or
14 private materials, personnel and other resources in developing
15 and implementing the program of instruction permitted pursuant
16 to paragraph (1). The Department of Education shall distribute
17 information about appropriate curriculum materials to each
18 school entity. School entities may utilize any curriculum that
19 complies with the requirements of this subsection.

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

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

29 (ii) The definition, history, response and actions taken in
30 the face of genocide, including the Holocaust and any other

1 genocide perpetrated against humanity, including the Rwandan
2 genocide and other genocides committed in Africa, Asia and
3 Europe.

4 (iii) Human rights violations.

5 (iv) Anti-Semitism, racism and the abridgment of civil
6 rights.

7 (2) The Department of Education shall work in consultation
8 with organizations and individuals that provide educational
9 expertise and resources related to the Holocaust, genocide and
10 human rights violations to develop the curriculum guidelines.
11 The guidelines shall state the minimum amount of instruction
12 necessary to adequately educate students on the Holocaust,
13 genocide and human rights violations. The guidelines shall be
14 posted on the Department of Education's publicly accessible
15 Internet website.

16 (c) Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, the Department
17 of Education shall make available, to all school entities, in-
18 service training programs based upon the instruction provided
19 for under subsection (a) and the curriculum guidelines
20 established pursuant to subsection (b).

21 (d) (1) Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, each
22 school entity providing instruction under subsection (a) shall
23 provide, as part of its in-service training, programs on the
24 Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations for all
25 instructors whose teaching responsibilities include courses of
26 study in which instruction concerning the Holocaust, genocide
27 and human rights violations is integrated. A school entity may
28 utilize the programs made available by the Department of
29 Education or use other alternative programs that are consistent
30 with the provisions of this section.

1 (2) Employes required to complete continuing professional
2 education under section 1205.2 shall receive credit toward the
3 continuing professional education requirements where the
4 training program provided pursuant to paragraph (1) has been
5 approved by the Department of Education.

6 (e) The Department of Education shall provide the
7 guidelines, in-service training and any other materials
8 developed in accordance with this section to any nonpublic
9 school within this Commonwealth upon receiving a request from
10 the nonpublic school.

11 (f) The State Board of Education shall:

12 (1) Conduct a study regarding the manner in which
13 instruction in the Holocaust, genocide and human rights
14 violations is offered by school entities in this Commonwealth.
15 In conducting the study, the State Board of Education shall
16 request that each school entity provide the State Board of
17 Education with information concerning whether the school entity
18 offers such instruction and the manner in which such instruction
19 is offered. Each school entity shall provide information to the
20 State Board of Education in response to a request under this
21 paragraph. Following the [2016-2017] 2026-2027 school year, but
22 not later than November 30, [2017] 2027, the State Board of
23 Education shall issue a report to the Governor, the Secretary of
24 Education, the Chairman and Minority Chairman of the Education
25 Committee of the Senate and the Chairman and Minority Chairman
26 of the Education Committee of the House of Representatives
27 addressing the following:

28 (i) The number of school entities offering instruction in
29 the Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations.

30 (ii) The number of school entities using the curriculum

1 guidelines established by the Department of Education under
2 subsection (b).

3 (iii) The number of school entities using the in-service
4 training programs made available by the Department of Education
5 under subsection (c).

6 (iv) A description of the manner in which school entities
7 are offering instruction in the Holocaust, genocide and human
8 rights violations, including the number of hours of instruction
9 offered, the grade levels at which such instruction is offered
10 and the course within such instruction is integrated.

11 (v) The recommendations for improvements to the offering of
12 instruction in the Holocaust, genocide and human rights
13 violations, including recommended legislation.

14 (2) Adopt a regulation, pursuant to the act of June 25, 1982
15 (P.L.633, No.181), known as the "Regulatory Review Act," to
16 require school entities to offer instruction in the Holocaust,
17 genocide and human rights violations that is consistent with
18 subsections (a) and (b) [, if the study conducted by the State
19 Board of Education under paragraph (1) demonstrates that less
20 than ninety percent of the school entities are offering
21 instruction in the Holocaust, genocide and human rights
22 violations consistent with subsections (a) and (b)] .

23 (3) Adopt rules and regulations necessary for the
24 implementation of this section pursuant to the "Regulatory
25 Review Act."

26 (g) [For purposes of this section, the term "school entity"
27 shall mean a school district, charter school, regional charter
28 school, cyber charter school, intermediate unit or area career
29 and technical school.] The following shall apply to curriculum
30 transparency:

1 (1) Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year and each school
2 year thereafter, a school entity shall post an Internet link or
3 title for every textbook used by the school entity, a course
4 syllabus or a written summary of the Holocaust, genocide and
5 human rights violations curriculum offered by the school entity
6 on the school entity's publicly accessible Internet website.

7 (2) The chief school administrator or a designee shall be
8 responsible for implementing the requirements under this
9 subsection.

10 (3) The requirements of this subsection shall not be
11 construed to require a school entity to violate the copyright,
12 trademark or other intellectual property right of the creator or
13 owner of the curriculum.

14 (h) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
15 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
16 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

17 "Genocide." The term includes any of the following acts
18 committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a
19 national, ethnic, racial or religious group:

20 (1) Killing members of the group.

21 (2) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the
22 group.

23 (3) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life
24 calculated to bring about the group's physical destruction, in
25 whole or in part.

26 (4) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the
27 group.

28 (5) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another
29 group.

30 "Holocaust." The systematic, state-sponsored persecution and

1 attempted annihilation of Jewish individuals and other groups by
2 the Nazi regime in Germany between 1933 and 1945, which resulted
3 in the murder of approximately six million (6,000,000) Jewish
4 individuals and five million (5,000,000) other individuals.

5 "School entity." A school district, charter school, regional
6 charter school, cyber charter school or intermediate unit.

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