

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 47 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY WILLIAMS, FARNESE, TEPLITZ, BROWNE, WASHINGTON,
SCHWANK, STACK AND TARTAGLIONE, JANUARY 4, 2013

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, JANUARY 4, 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) Beginning with school year 2014-
14 2015 and each school year thereafter, each public school student
15 shall receive mandatory instruction in the Holocaust, genocide
16 and human rights violations from grade six (6) through grade
17 twelve (12). The instruction shall be integrated within the
18 social studies and language arts courses of study required in
19 accordance with the State Board of Education regulations.
20 Instruction may also be integrated into other appropriate

1 courses of study. The following shall apply:

2 (1) This instruction:

3 (i) Shall be age appropriate.

4 (ii) Shall be sequential in method of study.

5 (iii) Shall communicate the connection between national,
6 ethnic, racial or religious intolerance and the subjects
7 established under subsection (b).

8 (iv) Shall communicate the impact of personal
9 responsibility, civic engagement and societal response within
10 the context of the subjects established under subsection (b).

11 (2) School districts may utilize any appropriate public or
12 private materials, personnel and other resources in developing
13 and implementing this program of instruction. The Department of
14 Education shall make available information about appropriate
15 curriculum materials upon request of a school district.

16 (b) The Department of Education shall establish curriculum
17 guidelines no later than twelve (12) months after the effective
18 date of this section. The following shall apply:

19 (1) The guidelines shall encourage the inclusion of the
20 following subjects where appropriate in the instruction:

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

25 (ii) The definition, history, response and actions taken in
26 the face of genocides, including the Holocaust, the Armenian
27 Genocide, the Bosnian Genocide and the Genocide in Sudan.

28 (iii) Human rights violations.

29 (iv) Anti-Semitism, racism and the abridgment of civil
30 rights.

1 (2) School districts may utilize any curriculum that
2 complies with the requirements of this subsection.

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

7 (c) Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year and each school
8 year thereafter, the Secretary of Education shall make
9 available, to all school districts and intermediate units, in-
10 service training programs based upon the instruction
11 requirements established under subsection (a) and the curriculum
12 guidelines established under subsection (b).

13 (d) The following shall apply:

14 (1) Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year and each school
15 year thereafter, each school district shall provide, as part of
16 its in-service training, programs on the Holocaust, genocide and
17 human rights violations for all instructors whose teaching
18 responsibilities include courses of study in which mandated
19 instruction concerning the Holocaust, genocide and human rights
20 violations is integrated. A school district may utilize the
21 programs made available by the Department of Education or use
22 other alternative programs.

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

27 (e) The Department of Education shall provide the
28 guidelines, in-service training and any other materials
29 developed in accordance with this section to any nonpublic
30 school within this Commonwealth upon receiving a request from

1 the nonpublic school.

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

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