

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1211 Session of
2005

INTRODUCED BY MCGEEHAN, BASTIAN, BELFANTI, BROWNE, BUNT,
CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI, CAWLEY, CORRIGAN, CRUZ, DENLINGER,
FABRIZIO, FREEMAN, GEIST, GOODMAN, HALUSKA, HERSHEY, JAMES,
JOSEPHS, W. KELLER, KILLION, LEDERER, PHILLIPS, PISTELLA,
PRESTON, READSHAW, SAINATO, SHANER, STABACK, SURRA, TIGUE,
WALKO, YOUNGBLOOD, YUDICHAK AND PALLONE, MARCH 30, 2005

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 30, 2005

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," requiring instruction on the subjects
6 of human rights violations, genocide, slavery, the mass
7 starvation in Ireland from 1845 to 1850 and the Holocaust.

8 The General Assembly finds, recognizes and affirms the
9 importance to pupils of learning to appreciate the sanctity of
10 life and the dignity of the individual. Pupils must develop a
11 respect for each person as a unique individual and understand
12 the importance of a universal concern for ethics and human
13 rights. Therefore the General Assembly recognizes the importance
14 of teaching our youth ethical and moral behavior specifically
15 relating to human rights violations, genocide issues, slavery,
16 the mass starvation in Ireland from 1845 to 1850 and the
17 Holocaust.

18 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

1 hereby enacts as follows:

2 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
3 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding sections
4 to read:

5 Section 1511.2. Patriotism, Citizenship and Human Rights
6 Instruction.--Every public and nonpublic school in kindergarten
7 through grade eight shall provide instruction in patriotism,
8 citizenship and human rights issues. The curriculum for human
9 rights issues shall include the inhumanity of genocide and
10 slavery, and shall pay particular attention to the study of the
11 Holocaust and the Great Irish Famine.

12 Section 1605.1. Patriotism, Citizenship and Human Rights
13 Instruction.--Every public and nonpublic school in grades nine
14 through twelve shall provide instruction in patriotism,
15 citizenship and human rights issues. The curriculum for human
16 rights issues shall include the inhumanity of genocide and
17 slavery, and shall pay particular attention to the study of the
18 Holocaust and the Great Irish Famine.

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