

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2396 Session of 2012

INTRODUCED BY B. BOYLE, BISHOP, K. BOYLE, BRADFORD, CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, CURRY, CUTLER, DALEY, DAVIS, DENLINGER, FABRIZIO, FREEMAN, GOODMAN, HESS, MAHONEY, MCGEEHAN, M. O'BRIEN, PAYTON, STURLA AND YOUNGBLOOD, MAY 21, 2012

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MAY 21, 2012

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 2014-2015, 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

other appropriate courses of study.

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

(i) Be age appropriate.

(ii) Be sequential in method of study.

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

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

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

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

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

(ii) The definition, history, response and actions taken in the face of genocide.

(iii) Human rights violations.

1 (iv) Anti-Semitism, racism and the abridgment of civil
2 rights.

3 (2) 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 the curriculum guidelines.

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

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

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

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

1 (f) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and
2 regulations necessary for the implementation of this section.
3 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.