

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1523 Session of 2012

INTRODUCED BY WILLIAMS, HUGHES, TARTAGLIONE, FONTANA, BROWNE,
SCHWANK, STACK, COSTA, SOLOBAY AND FARNESE, MAY 21, 2012

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

courses of study. The following shall apply:

(1) This instruction:

(i) Shall be age appropriate.

(ii) Shall be sequential in method of study.

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

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

(2) 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.

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

(1) The guidelines shall encourage the inclusion 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.

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

(2) School districts may utilize any curriculum that

complies with the requirements of this subsection.

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

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

(d) The following shall apply:

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

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

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