

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2005 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

Senate Bill 440

(Senator Teitelbaum, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

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**Task Force to Implement Holocaust, Genocide, Human Rights, and Tolerance  
Education**

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This bill establishes a Task Force to Implement Holocaust, Genocide, Human Rights, and Tolerance Education in the State. The task force must advise the University System of Maryland (USM) on the establishment of a pilot program that creates a Center for Excellence on the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, Human Rights, and Tolerance. The task force cannot make recommendations regarding mandatory course content or curricular materials for USM or public schools. USM must provide staff for the task force. The task force must submit an interim report to the Governor and the General Assembly by March 1, 2007 and a final report by September 1, 2008.

The bill terminates on September 30, 2008.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. Any expense reimbursement for task force members and staffing costs for USM are assumed to be minimal and within existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Background:** In 1948 the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. Since the Genocide Convention entered into force

in 1951, over 130 nations have ratified the convention and over 70 nations have made provisions for the punishment of genocide in domestic criminal law. The Genocide Convention came forth after the Holocaust, where over 6 millions Jews and other minorities were killed. Since the convention was ratified, numerous crimes of genocide have occurred throughout the world including Cambodia, Bosnia, and Rwanda. The Cambodian Genocide occurred in 1975 through 1979 under the Khmer Rouge regime of Pol Pot. During this time approximately 1.7 million individuals, 21% of the country's population, were killed. The Bosnian Genocide occurred in 1992 through 1998 with over 200,000 Muslims, Croats, and Serbs killed through ethnic cleansing. The Rwanda Genocide occurred in 1994 and resulted in 800,000 people being killed.

The General Assembly adopted Joint Resolution 6 in 2001 that designated April 24 as the Maryland Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide. The Armenian Genocide was committed by the Ottoman Empire (present day Turkey) during 1915 through 1923. Approximately 1.5 million Armenians were killed which represented 60% of the Armenians living in the Ottoman Empire.

Numerous states and universities have established centers for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. For example, the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies was established at the University of Minnesota in 1997 through a \$3 million anonymous endowment. The center operates with a \$250,000 annual budget and four staff positions supported by funding from the university, interest earnings from the endowment, and annual donations and grants.

**State Fiscal Effect:** USM advises that an existing associate professor and a coordinator would be assigned to staff the task force and prepare the interim and final reports.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** United Nations, Genocide Watch, University System of Maryland, University of Minnesota, Department of Legislative Service

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 20, 2005  
ncs/rhh Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 17, 2005

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