

HOUSE BILL 1241

F1

3lr3025
CF SB 837

By: **Delegate Attar**

Introduced and read first time: February 15, 2023

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Education – Curriculum – Study of the Holocaust (Educate to Stop the Hate Act)

FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education to develop certain guidelines on or before a certain date and to revise and enhance instruction about the Holocaust in public schools for certain elementary, middle, and high school grade levels; requiring all public schools and certain nonpublic schools to include the revised and enhanced Holocaust instruction in school curricula beginning in a certain school year; requiring county boards of education to dedicate Title II funds for professional development related to teaching the history of the Holocaust; encouraging certain nonpublic schools to include in the curriculum a unit of instruction on the Holocaust; and generally relating to the study of the Holocaust in school curricula.

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 7–132

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The Holocaust was a historical event that resulted in the systematic, state-sponsored mass murder of 6,000,000 Jews and millions of other people by Nazi Germany in the name of racial purity; and

WHEREAS, The Holocaust was a watershed event in the course of human history, not an accident in history; it occurred because individuals, organizations, and governments made choices that legalized discrimination leading to prejudice, hatred, and mass murder; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



WHEREAS, Social media and technology are being used to disseminate false and inaccurate information about the Holocaust; and

WHEREAS, Recent surveys have revealed that Americans have fundamental gaps in their knowledge of Holocaust history, particularly individuals between the ages of 18 and 34; and

WHEREAS, Education is fundamental in ensuring that the Holocaust is not forgotten and, therefore, repeated; and

WHEREAS, Holocaust education will help students understand the roots and ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping; develop an awareness of the value of pluralism and diversity; explore the dangers of remaining silent, apathetic, and indifferent to the oppression of others; and learn how the abuse of power can lead to the implementation of destructive policies resulting in government–sponsored policies ranging from social engineering to genocide; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of the General Assembly that the lessons of the Holocaust and genocide be taught to the students of Maryland to ensure that the unique tragedy that is the Holocaust as well as other genocides that have occurred throughout the world are never forgotten and that individuals better understand how to prevent these types of events in the future; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

7–132.

(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO:

(1) ALL PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, MIDDLE SCHOOLS, AND HIGH SCHOOLS; AND

(2) ALL NONPUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, MIDDLE SCHOOLS, AND HIGH SCHOOLS THAT PARTICIPATE IN STATE–FUNDED EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

(B) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2024, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

(1) DEVELOP GUIDELINES FOR INSTRUCTIONAL CONTENT ON THE HOLOCAUST THAT IS AGE–APPROPRIATE, INTERDISCIPLINARY, AND CONSISTENT WITH OTHER REQUIRED GRADE LEVEL INSTRUCTION; AND

(2) REVISE AND ENHANCE REQUIRED HOLOCAUST INSTRUCTION IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULA.

(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

(1) REVISE THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES FRAMEWORK FOR GRADES 4 AND 5 TO INCORPORATE INSTRUCTION ADDRESSING THE HOLOCAUST WITHIN THE GRADE 5 UNIT;

(2) REVISE THE MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES FRAMEWORK FOR GRADES 6 AND 7 TO INCORPORATE A STUDY OF THE ROOTS OF ANTISEMITISM THAT LED TO THE HOLOCAUST TO HELP STUDENTS CONTEXTUALIZE THE STUDY OF THE HOLOCAUST IN HIGH SCHOOL; AND

(3) REVISE THE HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY FRAMEWORK TO STRENGTHEN THE REQUIRED HOLOCAUST INSTRUCTION IN:

(i) THE UNITED STATES HISTORY CURRICULUM, TO REQUIRE STUDENTS TO STUDY THE AMERICAN RESPONSE TO THE HOLOCAUST BY FIRST UNDERSTANDING THE ORIGINS OF THE HOLOCAUST; AND

(ii) THE MODERN WORLD HISTORY CURRICULUM, TO REQUIRE STUDENTS TO EVALUATE THE CAUSE, COURSE, AND CONSEQUENCES OF THE HOLOCAUST.

(D) (1) BEGINNING IN THE 2024–2025 SCHOOL YEAR, ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND ALL NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS THAT PARTICIPATE IN STATE–FUNDED EDUCATION PROGRAMS SHALL INCLUDE THE REVISED AND ENHANCED HOLOCAUST INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOL CURRICULA.

(2) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL DEDICATE A PORTION OF TITLE II FUNDS FOR SUBSTANTIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ON TEACHING THE HOLOCAUST.

(E) EACH NONPUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND HIGH SCHOOL THAT DOES NOT PARTICIPATE IN STATE–FUNDED EDUCATION PROGRAMS IS ENCOURAGED TO INCLUDE IN THE CURRICULUM A UNIT OF INSTRUCTION ON THE HOLOCAUST IN ACCORDANCE WITH GUIDELINES ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.

(F) FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 TO THE DEPARTMENT TO IMPLEMENT THE HOLOCAUST INSTRUCTION REVISIONS AND ENHANCEMENTS REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2023.