

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 416

BY REPRESENTATIVE HODGES

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

CURRICULA: Requires instruction regarding World War II and the Holocaust for high school students and training for teachers relative to such instruction

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:280.1 and 3996(B)(59), relative to required instruction in public schools;
3 to require public school governing authorities to provide instruction relative to World
4 War II and the Holocaust to each student in grades nine through twelve; to provide
5 for the incorporation of the instruction into an existing required course; to specify
6 requirements relative to the content of the instruction; to require training for certain
7 teachers relative to such instruction; to provide for an effective date; and to provide
8 for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 17:280.1 and 3996(B)(59) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §280.1. World War II and the Holocaust; required instruction; teacher training

12 A. Each public school governing authority shall provide age- and grade-
13 appropriate instruction regarding World War II and the Holocaust to students in
14 grades nine through twelve. Such instruction shall be incorporated into an existing
15 required course, such as American History, and include, at minimum, the following:

16 (1)(a) The history of World War II and the Holocaust, including but not
17 limited to the Third Reich, the concentration camp system, anti-Semitism, the

1 persecution of Jews and non-Jews, Jewish and non-Jewish resistance, and the
2 Nuremberg trials.

3 (b) The impact of personal responsibility, civic engagement, and societal
4 response in the context of World War II and the Holocaust.

5 (c) The connection between national, ethnic, racial, and religious intolerance
6 and the subjects provided in Subparagraphs (a) and (b) of this Paragraph.

7 (d) The leading role played by the United States and the United States
8 Armed Forces, including African American soldiers, including but not limited to the
9 Tuskegee Airmen, and Asian American soldiers, in defeating the Third Reich and
10 liberating Nazi concentration camps.

11 (e) The internment of Japanese Americans in the United States during World
12 War II.

13 B. Each public school governing authority shall incorporate World War II
14 and Holocaust instruction training into the existing in-service training program or as
15 part of a professional development day for teachers whose responsibilities include
16 courses of study into which the instruction is incorporated. This training shall cover
17 the topics required by Subsection A of this Section.

18 C. In order to satisfy the requirements of this Section, each public school
19 governing authority shall make available to its schools the free curriculum from the
20 National World War II Museum in New Orleans or such other free curriculum that
21 is available from authoritative sources or postsecondary education institutions.

22 D. For purposes of this Section, the following definitions shall apply:

23 (1) "Holocaust" means the systematic state-sponsored killing of six million
24 Jewish men, women, and children and five million non-Jews by Nazi Germany and
25 its collaborators during World War II.

26 (2) "Nazi" means the byname for the National Socialist German Workers'
27 Party, a political party of the mass movement known as national socialism under
28 which its leader, Adolf Hitler, came to power in 1933 and governed by totalitarian
29 methods until 1945.

1 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
 2 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
 3 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
 4 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
 5 effective on the day following such approval.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 416 Reengrossed

2021 Regular Session

Hodges

Abstract: Requires instruction on World War II and the Holocaust in grades nine through 12 and in-service training for teachers on such instruction.

Proposed law requires each public school governing authority to provide the following:

- (1) Age and grade appropriate instruction regarding World War II and the Holocaust to students in grade nine through 12, incorporated into an existing required course such as American History. Provides specific instruction items to be included.
- (2) Training for teachers whose responsibilities include courses of study into which this instruction is incorporated.

Proposed law requires each public school governing authority to make available to its schools the free curriculum from the National WWII Museum in New Orleans.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:280.1 and 3996(B)(59))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Require instruction in high school rather than in grades 6-12.
2. Require each public school governing authority to make available to its schools the free curriculum from the National WWII Museum in New Orleans.
3. Specify that instruction on the role of U.S. Armed Forces include African American and Asian American members of the military.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Add the internment of Japanese Americans in the U.S. during World War II to the list of required instructional components.
2. Remove requirements for reporting regarding implementation of proposed law.