

SENATE BILL 837

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CF 3lr3025

By: **Senators Kramer, Brooks, Corderman, Elfreth, Gile, Griffith, Ready, Waldstreicher, and Lewis Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2023

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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

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

14 BY adding to
15 Article – Education
16 Section 7–132
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2022 Replacement Volume)

19 Preamble

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

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

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

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

21 **Article – Education**

22 **7–132.**

23 **(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO:**

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

26 **(2) ALL NONPUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, MIDDLE SCHOOLS, AND**
27 **HIGH SCHOOLS THAT PARTICIPATE IN STATE-FUNDED EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**

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

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

32 **(2) REVISE AND ENHANCE REQUIRED HOLOCAUST INSTRUCTION IN**

1 PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULA.

2 (C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

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

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

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

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

15 (II) THE MODERN WORLD HISTORY CURRICULUM, TO REQUIRE
16 STUDENTS TO EVALUATE THE CAUSE, COURSE, AND CONSEQUENCES OF THE
17 HOLOCAUST.

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

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

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

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

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