

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4720

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 23, 2023

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4720 (1R).

This bill directs the Commissioner of Education, in conjunction with the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, to develop and distribute, within 60 days of the bill's effective date, a survey regarding instruction on the Holocaust and genocides to the public schools of the State. The focus of the survey is how each school district is meeting the current statutory requirement established pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1994, c.13 (C.18A:35-28), that every board of education include instruction on the Holocaust and genocides in an appropriate place in the curriculum of all elementary and secondary school students. The survey is required to include questions, for all grade levels, on: curriculum content; learning goals; instructional strategies and activities; texts and resources; and assessments. The survey is to include questions, for teachers with experience providing instruction on the Holocaust and genocide, concerning the need for any additional resources or training to provide the instruction.

The bill, directs the commissioner, in conjunction with the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature within 210 days of the bill's effective date. The report is to include findings of the survey and, if needed, recommendations to strengthen the instructional requirement.

The bill also requires the superintendent of each school district, or a designee, to:

- (1) complete the survey within 60 days of its receipt; and
- (2) submit, with the survey response, an attestation affirming that the school district is meeting the instruction requirement on the Holocaust and genocides.

The bill further provides that the commissioner may require the completion of a corrective action plan by:

- (1) any school district identified from the survey as not meeting the instruction requirement on the Holocaust and genocides; or
- (2) any school district that fails to submit an attestation.

Under the bill, the corrective action plan is to be submitted for approval by the commissioner in such manner and form prescribed by the commissioner.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) determines that this bill will result in a one-time increase in State spending for the Department of Education, in conjunction with the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, to develop and distribute a survey regarding instruction on the Holocaust and genocides to the public schools of the State.

The cost to the State to develop and distribute the survey is indeterminate and would be dependent on the manner in which the department and the commission determine to carry out the survey requirements and the extent to which existing staff and resources are sufficient to develop and distribute the survey.