

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3145

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 1, 2022

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 3145 with committee amendments.

As amended by the committee, 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 instruction requirements established pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1994, c.13 (C.18A:35-28), which requires every board of education to 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 will also 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 180 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 30 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.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to require the Commissioner of Education to work in conjunction with the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education in developing and distributing the survey, as well as submitting the final report. The committee also amended the bill to include questions in the survey for teachers regarding additional resources or training needed to provide instruction on the Holocaust or genocide.