

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 56—COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(ON BEHALF OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR)

PREFILED NOVEMBER 18, 2020

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing education on the Holocaust and other genocides. (BDR 34-426)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to education; requiring the State Board of Education to create a subcommittee to conduct an interim study of the manner in which to provide certain information to pupils concerning the Holocaust and other genocides; requiring the subcommittee to review the manner in which certain standards support comprehensive education on the Holocaust; requiring the subcommittee to report its findings to the Board; requiring the Board to submit a report to the Legislative Committee on Education; requiring the Legislative Committee on Education to submit a report to the Legislature; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

- 1 Existing law requires the Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public
- 2 Schools to establish standards of content and performance for various subjects.
- 3 (NRS 389.520) **Section 3.5** of this bill requires the State Board of Education to
- 4 create a subcommittee to study the manner in which to provide certain information
- 5 relating to the Holocaust and other genocides, such as the Armenian genocide, in
- 6 certain courses of study. **Section 3.5** requires the study conducted by the
- 7 subcommittee to include, without limitation: (1) the manner in which to modify the
- 8 curriculum of certain coursework to include certain instruction on the Holocaust
- 9 and other genocides, such as the Armenian genocide; (2) an inventory of available
- 10 classroom resources for educators; (3) any professional development that may be
- 11 necessary for a teacher who provides certain instruction on the Holocaust and other
- 12 genocides, such as the Armenian genocide; and (4) consideration of any similar
- 13 instruction provided in another state or school district.



14 **Section 3.5** requires the subcommittee to review the manner in which current
15 standards support comprehensive education on the Holocaust. **Section 3.5** requires
16 the subcommittee to be composed of the following members: (1) the
17 Superintendent of Public Instruction, or his or her designee; (2) three members
18 representing the Governor’s Advisory Council on Education Relating to the
19 Holocaust; (3) three members representing nonprofit educational organizations that
20 have developed curricula for use in public schools regarding the Holocaust; (4) at
21 least one member representing a school district with 60,000 or more pupils; (5) at
22 least one member representing a school district with fewer than 60,000 pupils; (6)
23 at least one member representing a charter school located in this State; (7) at least
24 one member representing nonprofit educational organizations that have developed
25 curricula for use in public schools regarding other genocides; and (8) at least one
26 member representing nonprofit educational organizations that have developed
27 curricula for use in public schools regarding the Armenian genocide.

28 **Section 3.5** requires the subcommittee to report its findings to the State Board
29 of Education on or before October 1, 2022. **Section 3.5** requires the State Board of
30 Education to, on or before December 1, 2022, submit a report to the Legislative
31 Committee on Education. **Section 3.5** requires the Legislative Committee on
32 Education to consider such a report and, on or before December 31, 2022, prepare
33 and submit a written report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for
34 transmittal to the 82nd Session of the Nevada Legislature.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** (Deleted by amendment.)

2 **Sec. 2.** (Deleted by amendment.)

3 **Sec. 3.** (Deleted by amendment.)

4 **Sec. 3.5.** 1. The State Board of Education shall create a
5 subcommittee to study the manner in which to provide age-
6 appropriate and historically accurate instruction about the Holocaust
7 and other genocides, such as the Armenian genocide, in social
8 studies and language arts courses of study.

9 2. The study conducted by the subcommittee pursuant to this
10 section must include, without limitation:

11 (a) The manner in which to modify the curriculum of a relevant
12 course in social studies to include the instruction described in this
13 section;

14 (b) An inventory of available classroom resources for educators
15 to meet the requirements of this section;

16 (c) The professional development that may be necessary or
17 appropriate for a teacher who provides the instruction described in
18 this section; and

19 (d) Consideration of any similar instruction provided in another
20 state or school district.

21 3. The subcommittee shall link current standards with
22 community resources that may assist in the implementation of the
23 instruction described in subsection 1. The subcommittee shall



1 review the manner in which the current standards support
2 comprehensive education regarding the Holocaust and other
3 genocides, such as the Armenian genocide, including by, without
4 limitation:

5 (a) Preparing pupils to confront the immorality of the Holocaust,
6 other genocides, such as the Armenian genocide, and other acts of
7 mass violence and to reflect on the causes of related historical
8 events;

9 (b) Addressing the breadth of the history of the Holocaust,
10 including, without limitation, the dictatorship of the Third Reich, the
11 system of concentration camps, the persecution of both Jewish and
12 non-Jewish people, the resistance to the Third Reich and the
13 Holocaust by both Jewish and non-Jewish people and the trials that
14 occurred after the end World War II;

15 (c) Developing the respect of pupils for cultural diversity and
16 helping pupils gain insight into the importance of international
17 human rights for all people;

18 (d) Promoting the understanding of pupils of how the Holocaust
19 contributed to the need for the term “genocide” and led to
20 international legislation that recognized genocide as a crime;

21 (e) Communicating the impact of personal responsibility, civic
22 engagement and societal responsiveness;

23 (f) Stimulating the reflection of pupils on the role and
24 responsibility of citizens in democratic societies to combat
25 misinformation, indifference and discrimination through the
26 development of critical thinking skills and through tools of
27 resistance such as protest, reform and celebration;

28 (g) Providing pupils with opportunities to contextualize and
29 analyze patterns of human behavior by persons and groups who
30 belong in one or more categories, including, without limitation,
31 perpetrator, collaborator, bystander, victim and rescuer;

32 (h) Enabling pupils to understand the ramifications of prejudice,
33 racism and stereotyping;

34 (i) Preserving the memories of survivors of genocide and
35 providing opportunities for pupils to discuss and honor the cultural
36 legacies of survivors;

37 (j) Providing pupils with a foundation for examining the history
38 of discrimination in this State;

39 (k) Including in curricula the use of personal narratives and
40 multimedia primary source materials, which may include, without
41 limitation, video testimony, photographs, artwork, diary entries,
42 letters, government documents, maps and poems; and

43 (l) Exploring the various mechanisms of transitional and
44 restorative justice that help humanity move forward in the aftermath
45 of genocide.



1 4. The subcommittee must be composed of the Superintendent
2 of Public Instruction, or his or her designee, and the following
3 members appointed by the Superintendent;

4 (a) Three members representing the Governor's Advisory
5 Council on Education Relating to the Holocaust created by
6 NRS 233G.020;

7 (b) Three members representing nonprofit organizations that
8 have developed curricula regarding the Holocaust for use in public
9 schools;

10 (c) At least one member representing a school district with
11 60,000 or more pupils;

12 (d) At least one member representing a school district with
13 fewer than 60,000 pupils;

14 (e) At least one member representing a charter school located in
15 this State;

16 (f) At least one member representing nonprofit organizations
17 that have developed curricula for use in public schools regarding
18 other genocides; and

19 (g) At least one member representing nonprofit organizations
20 that have developed curricula for use in public schools regarding the
21 Armenian genocide.

22 5. The subcommittee created pursuant to subsection 1 shall
23 report its findings to the State Board of Education on or before
24 October 1, 2022. The State Board of Education shall, on or before
25 December 1, 2022, submit a report to the Legislative Committee on
26 Education which includes its recommendations for adopting the
27 instruction described in this section, as well as any actions the State
28 Board has taken or intends to take to include the instruction in the
29 relevant courses.

30 6. The Legislative Committee on Education shall consider the
31 report submitted by the State Board of Education and, on or before
32 December 31, 2022, prepare and submit a written report to the
33 Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, for transmittal to
34 the 82nd Session of the Nevada Legislature, concerning the
35 Committee's consideration of the matters described in this section
36 and any recommendations for legislation to ensure the instruction
37 described in this section is included in the curricula of the relevant
38 courses.

39 7. As used in this section:

40 (a) "Genocide" means any of the following acts committed with
41 intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or
42 religious group:

43 (1) Killing members of the group;

44 (2) Causing serious bodily harm or mental harm to members
45 of the group;



1 (3) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life
2 calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;

3 (4) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the
4 group; or

5 (5) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another
6 group.

7 (b) "Holocaust" means the systematic, bureaucratic, state-
8 sponsored persecution and murder of approximately 6,000,000 Jews
9 and 5,000,000 other persons by the Nazi regime and its
10 collaborators.

11 **Sec. 3.7.** The provisions of subsection 1 of NRS 218D.380 do
12 not apply to any provision of this act which adds or revises a
13 requirement to submit a report to the Legislature.

14 **Sec. 4.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2021.



