

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2550 Session of 2024

INTRODUCED BY WEBSTER, HILL-EVANS, FREEMAN, KUZMA, PROBST, GILLEN, BRENNAN, SANCHEZ, BOROWSKI, DELLOSO, CIRESI, FRANKEL, SCHLOSSBERG AND NEILSON, SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
 2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
 3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
 4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
 5 laws relating thereto," in terms and courses of study,
 6 further providing for Holocaust, genocide and human rights
 7 violations instruction.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. Section 1554(a)(1) and (f)(1) introductory
 11 paragraph and (2) of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14),
 12 known as the Public School Code of 1949, are amended to read:

13 Section 1554. Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights
 14 Violations Instruction.--(a) (1) Beginning with school year
 15 ~~[2015-2016]~~ 2025-2026, each school entity ~~[may]~~ shall offer
 16 instruction in the Holocaust, genocide and human rights
 17 violations to students. The instruction shall equate to at least
 18 seven (7) hours within a school year and be integrated within
 19 the social studies and language arts courses of study required
 20 in accordance with State Board of Education regulations.

1 Instruction may also be integrated into other appropriate
2 courses of study.

3 * * *

4 (f) The State Board of Education shall:

5 (1) Conduct a study regarding the manner in which
6 instruction in the Holocaust, genocide and human rights
7 violations is offered by school entities in this Commonwealth.
8 In conducting the study, the State Board of Education shall
9 request that each school entity provide the State Board of
10 Education with information concerning whether the school entity
11 offers such instruction and the manner in which such instruction
12 is offered. Each school entity shall provide information to the
13 State Board of Education in response to a request under this
14 paragraph. Following the [2016-2017] 2026-2027 school year, but
15 not later than November 30, [2017] 2027, the State Board of
16 Education shall issue a report to the Governor, the Secretary of
17 Education, the Chairman and Minority Chairman of the Education
18 Committee of the Senate and the Chairman and Minority Chairman
19 of the Education Committee of the House of Representatives
20 addressing the following:

21 * * *

22 (2) Adopt a regulation, pursuant to the act of June 25, 1982
23 (P.L.633, No.181), known as the "Regulatory Review Act," to
24 require school entities to offer instruction in the Holocaust,
25 genocide and human rights violations that is consistent with
26 subsections (a) and (b) [, if the study conducted by the State
27 Board of Education under paragraph (1) demonstrates that less
28 than ninety percent of the school entities are offering
29 instruction in the Holocaust, genocide and human rights
30 violations consistent with subsections (a) and (b)] .

1 * * *

2 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.