

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.



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

Section 3.5 requires the subcommittee to report its findings to the State Board of Education on or before October 1, 2022. **Section 3.5** requires the State Board of Education to, on or before December 1, 2022, submit a report to the Legislative Committee on Education. **Section 3.5** requires the Legislative Committee on Education to consider such a report and, on or before December 31, 2022, prepare and submit a written report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for 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:

Section 1. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 2. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 3. (Deleted by amendment.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. As used in this section:

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

(1) Killing members of the group;

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

