
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair
2021 - 2022 Regular Session

SB 693 (Stern) - Pupil instruction: genocide education: the Holocaust

Version: April 5, 2021

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: May 3, 2021

Policy Vote: ED. 7 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Lenin Del Castillo

Bill Summary: This bill establishes the Governor's Council on Genocide and Holocaust Education. The council would be required to develop best practices to facilitate the instruction on genocide and the Holocaust, identify available resources that are aligned to the best practices, and identify training programs and resources for teachers.

Fiscal Impact:

- The California Department of Education (CDE) estimates one-time Proposition 98 General Fund costs of \$5.5 million to provide in-service training to school districts and private schools, and an additional \$2.3 million for the small grants program. This estimate assumes that CDE would need to contract with multiple county offices of education or private training providers to conduct the required training and is based on the cost of a similar professional development program (the CLIC Project). This estimate also assumes that the small grants program would provide grants of either \$50,000 or \$100,000 each.
- To the extent that CDE would be required to provide staff support for the Governor's Council, there would be ongoing General Fund costs of about \$911,000 needed to fund 6.0 positions each year.

Background: Existing law establishes the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) as an advisory body to the State Board of Education (SBE). The IQC is an advisory body to the SBE and is responsible for recommending curriculum frameworks, developing criteria for the evaluation of instructional materials, and evaluating and recommending adoption of instructional materials.

Existing law requires the IQC to consider incorporating into the history-social science framework content on specific historical events, including the Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, and Rwandan genocides and the Great Irish Famine of 1845 to 1850. Existing law also encourages CDE to incorporate into curriculum resources for teachers, age-appropriate materials on the Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, and Rwandan genocides.

AB 2016 (Alejo, Ch. 327, Statutes of 2016) required the IQC to develop, and the SBE to adopt, an ethnic studies model curriculum. During the development process, there were concerns raised over which groups the ethnic studies model curriculum should include. The CDE ultimately recommended that the model curriculum increase the breadth and depth of four foundational disciplines of ethnic studies—African American Studies, Asian American Studies, Chicana/o/x Latina/o/x Studies, and Native American Studies.

The CDE also proposed updating and expanding an existing set of resources, where all sample lessons are housed, to further reflect California's diversity by offering instructional materials that raise the voices of many identities whose experiences intersect with the core disciplines of ethnic studies, such as Arab Americans, Armenian Americans, Jewish Americans, and Sikh Americans. The model curriculum and additional sample lessons were adopted by the SBE on March 18, 2021.

Proposed Law: This bill establishes the Governor's Council on Genocide and Holocaust Education and requires the council to be responsible for coordinating efforts between the CDE and individuals and organizations that are experts in the field of education on genocide, including the Holocaust. The council shall consist of 17 members appointed by the Governor, who have particular interest or expertise on genocide, including the Holocaust, and to serve without compensation. However, if funding is available for this purpose from private sources, members of the council may be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties as members of the council.

This bill requires the council to develop best practices to facilitate the instruction on genocide, including the Holocaust, that aligns with academic content standards for pupils who are enrolled in grades 4 to 12, inclusive, and the offering of instruction that is appropriate for pupils who are enrolled in kindergarten and grades 1 to 3, inclusive, and also requires the council to develop a process to identify available resources, and work with CDE to establish new resources, that align with the best practices developed by the council, academic content standards, and the history-social science curriculum framework.

This bill states that the Legislature strongly encourages school districts and charter schools with pupils in grades 4 to 12, inclusive, to integrate the best practices into instruction on genocide, including the Holocaust, that meets existing academic content standards and the history-social science curriculum framework for these pupils. The bill also requires the best practices developed by the council to encourage innovation, equity, accessibility, and flexibility, and respect diversity, leading to instruction for pupils that complies with specified criteria.

This bill requires the council to work in consultation with the CDE and organizations and individuals that provide educational expertise and resources related to education on genocide, including the Holocaust, to align the best practices with academic content standards and frameworks. The bill also requires the best practices to, among other things, suggest the minimum amount of instruction necessary to adequately educate pupils on genocide, including the Holocaust

This bill requires the CDE to distribute information on appropriate curriculum materials and guidelines to school districts and charter schools, and to make available the best practices and approved lessons, resources, and materials to support the integration of instruction on genocide, including the Holocaust.

This bill requires the council to work with the CDE to provide resources to school districts and charter schools so they may incorporate the best practices on teaching genocide, including the Holocaust, into their accredited in-service training programs, and also includes specific requirements for the council. The bill also requires the

council to work with CDE to establish a small grants program to foster cooperation and innovation amount teachers and schools to develop strategies to apply the best practices, as specified.

This bill requires the CDE to provide a professional development program for teaching the topic of genocide, including the Holocaust, to school districts and charter schools. To the extent permitted by the California Constitution, the bill authorizes the CDE to provide guidelines, in-service training, and any other materials developed in accordance with this section to a private school maintaining any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive, in the state, upon receiving a request from the private school.

This bill requires the CDE to conduct a study on the manner in which instruction on genocide, including the Holocaust, is offered pursuant to this bill to assess the impact of the instruction, as specified.

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