

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2615 (Zbur) – As Amended April 27, 2026

Policy Committee: Education

Vote: 6 - 1

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill revises prohibitions and requirements regarding discriminatory bias in instruction and school-sponsored activities and modifies enforcement required by the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI). The bill also makes technical and conforming changes to facilitate implementation.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

Minor and absorbable costs to CDE.

**COMMENTS:**

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

AB 2615 advances and reaffirms the goals of AB 715 to strengthen how California schools prevent and respond to antisemitism by ensuring every student feels safe, respected, and protected from hate. AB 2615 honors commitments made to continue working with stakeholders on four minor and technical issues related to AB 715. As with all proposed legislation, conversation with stakeholders will be ongoing as the bill moves through the legislative process.

2) **Background.** State law and regulations establish the Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP) process for the filing, investigation, and resolution of complaints regarding alleged violations by an LEA of federal or state law or regulations governing educational programs. Generally, a complainant first files a complaint with the LEA, and the LEA must conduct an investigation to resolve complaints in accordance with the policies and procedures of the governing board or body.

If a complainant believes that the LEA's investigation report is incorrect as a matter of law, the complainant has the right to appeal to the CDE. A complainant must file an appeal within 30 days of the LEA's decision and must specify the basis for the appeal. In the case of alleged discrimination by an LEA governing board- or body-adopted textbook, instructional material, supplemental instructional material, or curriculum for classroom instruction, a complainant may file their complaint directly with the SPI. In the case of a directly filed complaint, current law authorizes the SPI to directly intervene without waiting for an investigation by the LEA.

AB 715 (Zbur and Addis), Chapter 428, Statutes of 2025, established the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) and an Antisemitism Prevention Coordinator within the OCR. AB 715 also required all instruction be factually accurate, aligned to state curriculum, and consistent with accepted standards of professional responsibility, rather than advocacy, personal opinion, bias, or partisanship, and expanded prohibitions on the use of discriminatory instructional materials that are subject to the UCP investigation process and potential fiscal penalties resulting from noncompliance.

This bill revises the antidiscrimination prohibition on instruction containing personal opinion in current law established by AB 715 by specifying its application to “controversial issues,” though it does not define that term. The bill also requires the SPI to ensure an LEA omit all portions of instructional materials deemed to be in violation of antidiscrimination requirements, though it is unclear by what mechanism this would occur.

- 3) **Prior Legislation.** SB 153 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review), Chapter 38, Statutes of 2024, prohibited an LEA governing board or body from adopting or approving the use of instructional material if it would subject a pupil to unlawful discrimination, permitted a complaint to be filed with the applicable LEA or with the SPI directly, and authorized the SPI to directly intervene without waiting for an investigation by the LEA.

AB 2925 (Friedman), Chapter 844, Statutes of 2024, changed the definition of the terms nationality and religion for purposes of defining what constitutes discrimination in higher education, and established a requirement for specific antidiscrimination training or diversity, equity, and inclusion training offered by postsecondary education institutions to include training on how to combat and address discrimination against the five most targeted groups in the state.

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