

By: Menéndez, Campbell
King

S.B. No. 735

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to Holocaust education and training provided to students enrolled at public schools and public institutions of higher education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 8, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 8.065 to read as follows:

Sec. 8.065. COLLABORATION WITH HOLOCAUST MUSEUMS. Each regional education service center shall on a regular basis collaborate with one or more of the Holocaust museums in this state to expand educator training and classroom education opportunities regarding Holocaust education.

SECTION 2. Section 29.9072, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (d), (e), and (f) to read as follows:

(a) In this section, "Holocaust" has the meaning assigned by Section 448.001 [~~449.001~~], Government Code.

(d) Not later than June 1 of each school year, each school district and open-enrollment charter school shall submit to the agency a report regarding the Holocaust Remembrance Week instruction offered by the district or school for that school year under this section. The report must include the activities, lessons, and instructional materials used for the instruction.

(e) As soon as practicable after June 1 of each school year,

1 the agency shall compile all reports submitted under Subsection (d)
2 for the school year and submit the compiled information to each
3 regional education service center and the Texas Holocaust,
4 Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission.

5 (f) Not later than 60 days before the first day of the week
6 designated by the governor as Holocaust Remembrance Week, the
7 agency shall provide notice to each school district and
8 open-enrollment charter school of the week to be known as Holocaust
9 Remembrance Week in public schools, including the instruction and
10 reporting requirements under Subsections (c) and (d).

11 SECTION 3. Subchapter [2](#), Chapter [29](#), Education Code, is
12 amended by adding Section 29.90721 to read as follows:

13 Sec. 29.90721. HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE WEEK GRANT PROGRAM.

14 (a) In this section:

15 (1) "Advisory commission" means the Texas Holocaust,
16 Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission.

17 (2) "Commission" means the Texas Historical
18 Commission.

19 (3) "Holocaust" has the meaning assigned by Section
20 [448.001](#), Government Code.

21 (b) From money appropriated, received from gifts, grants,
22 or donations, or otherwise available for purposes of this section,
23 the commission, in coordination with the advisory commission, shall
24 establish and administer a grant program to provide grants to
25 school districts and museums, centers, and other relevant
26 organizations in this state to assist in the implementation of
27 Holocaust Remembrance Week instruction under Section [29.9072](#). The

commission may award a grant for purposes of:

(1) developing optional, age-appropriate lesson plans for classroom teachers who lack relevant subject matter expertise regarding the Holocaust;

(2) sponsoring student field trips to the Holocaust museums in this state, with priority given to campuses in urban and rural districts;

(3) providing training approved by the advisory commission for educators and for administrators who manage professional development and teacher training in each district;

(4) cataloging and expanding relevant audiovisual and digital classroom resources, including resources maintained by Holocaust museums in this state; and

(5) developing, in collaboration with museums, bilingual curricula to meet the needs of more students in this state and making the curricula available on the advisory commission's Internet website.

(c) The commission, in coordination with the advisory commission, shall adopt rules as necessary to establish and administer the grant program under this section.

SECTION 4. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.0767 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.0767. EDUCATOR PREPARATION PILOT PROGRAM TO IMPROVE DELIVERY OF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION. (a) The board shall establish a pilot program at institutions of higher education selected by the board to train students enrolled in an educator preparation program to provide more effective instruction related to the history and

1 remembrance of the Holocaust. The board may adopt rules as
2 necessary to administer this section.

3 (b) An institution of higher education selected under this
4 section must have an educator preparation program approved by the
5 State Board for Educator Certification or be affiliated with a
6 program approved by the State Board for Educator Certification.

7 (c) At least 50 percent of the institutions of higher
8 education selected by the board must be located in an area or likely
9 to graduate educators who will teach in a public school in an area
10 where the applicable school district has demonstrated low
11 participation in Holocaust Remembrance Week instruction.

12 (d) The board shall collaborate with the Texas Holocaust,
13 Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission to establish
14 minimum curriculum requirements, guidelines, and procedures
15 necessary for the implementation of the pilot program.

16 (e) The board shall use any funds appropriated or otherwise
17 made available for purposes of the pilot program and may accept
18 gifts, grants, and donations to fund the pilot program.

19 (f) The pilot program shall operate for four full academic
20 years.

21 (g) An institution of higher education selected for the
22 pilot program shall annually report to the board in the manner
23 prescribed by the board data and information regarding the
24 operation of the pilot program.

25 (h) The report required by Subsection (g) must contain, with
26 respect to the preceding academic year:

27 (1) a description of the manner in which the selected

1 institution complied with the purpose of the pilot program and any
2 difficulties encountered in complying with that purpose, including
3 timelines related to implementing the pilot program;

4 (2) data regarding the institution's students
5 receiving instruction under the pilot program through an educator
6 preparation program;

7 (3) information regarding any third-party entities or
8 organizations the institution collaborates with to deliver
9 instruction under the pilot program through an educator preparation
10 program; and

11 (4) a survey of educator preparation program students
12 and faculty who participated in the pilot program at the
13 institution, including feedback regarding the results of the pilot
14 program and information regarding the marketability and subsequent
15 teaching careers of participating students.

16 (i) The board shall compile a biennial report based on the
17 data and information received under Subsection (g) regarding the
18 operation of the pilot program and the results of the survey of
19 educator preparation program students and faculty who participated
20 in the pilot program at each of the selected institutions during the
21 preceding biennium. Not later than September 1 of each
22 odd-numbered year, the board shall deliver a copy of the report to
23 the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of
24 representatives, and the chair of each standing committee of the
25 legislature having primary jurisdiction over higher education.

26 (j) The biennial report produced by the board before
27 September 1, 2029, must include a recommendation regarding whether

1 the pilot program should be continued, expanded, or terminated.

2 (k) Before September 1, 2031, the board shall conduct a
3 final survey of educator preparation program students and faculty
4 who participated in the pilot program at the selected institutions
5 at any time during the operation of the program, including feedback
6 regarding the results of the pilot program and information
7 regarding the marketability and teaching careers of participating
8 students. The board shall publish the results of the survey on its
9 Internet website.

10 (l) The pilot program concludes and this section expires
11 December 1, 2031.

12 SECTION 5. Section [29.9072](#), Education Code, as amended by
13 this Act, applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

14 SECTION 6. As soon as practicable after the effective date
15 of this Act, the Texas Historical Commission, in coordination with
16 the Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory
17 Commission, shall establish the grant program required by Section
18 29.90721, Education Code, as added by this Act.

19 SECTION 7. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
20 shall select public institutions of higher education for the pilot
21 program required under Section 61.0767, Education Code, as added by
22 this Act, not later than May 1, 2026.

23 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.