

By: Menéndez

S.B. No. 735

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to Holocaust education and training provided to students
3 enrolled at public schools and public institutions of higher
4 education.

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 (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 SECTION 3. Subchapter 7, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 29.90721 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 29.90721. HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE WEEK GRANT PROGRAM.

8 (a) In this section:

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

11 (2) "Commission" means the Texas Historical
12 Commission.

13 (3) "Holocaust" has the meaning assigned by Section
14 448.001, Government Code.

15 (b) From money appropriated for purposes of this section,
16 the commission, in coordination with the advisory commission, shall
17 establish and administer a grant program to provide grants to
18 school districts and museums, centers, and other relevant
19 organizations in this state to assist in the implementation of
20 Holocaust Remembrance Week instruction under Section 29.9072. The
21 commission may award a grant for purposes of:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 Sec. 61.0767. EDUCATOR PREPARATION PILOT PROGRAM TO IMPROVE
17 DELIVERY OF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION. (a) The board shall establish a
18 pilot program at institutions of higher education selected by the
19 board to train students enrolled in an educator preparation program
20 to provide more effective instruction related to the history and
21 remembrance of the Holocaust. The board may adopt rules as
22 necessary to administer this section.

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

27 (c) At least 50 percent of the institutions of higher

1 education selected by the board must be located in an area or likely
2 to graduate educators who will teach in a public school in an area
3 where the applicable school district has demonstrated low
4 participation in Holocaust Remembrance Week instruction.

5 (d) The board shall collaborate with the Texas Holocaust,
6 Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission to establish
7 minimum curriculum requirements, guidelines, and procedures
8 necessary for the implementation of the pilot program.

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

12 (f) The pilot program shall operate for four full academic
13 years.

14 (g) An institution of higher education selected for the
15 pilot program shall annually report to the board in the manner
16 prescribed by the board data and information regarding the
17 operation of the pilot program.

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

20 (1) a description of the manner in which the selected
21 institution complied with the purpose of the pilot program and any
22 difficulties encountered in complying with that purpose, including
23 timelines related to implementing the pilot program;

24 (2) data regarding the institution's students
25 receiving instruction under the pilot program through an educator
26 preparation program;

27 (3) information regarding any third-party entities or

1 organizations the institution collaborates with to deliver
2 instruction under the pilot program through an educator preparation
3 program; and

4 (4) a survey of educator preparation program students
5 and faculty who participated in the pilot program at the
6 institution, including feedback regarding the results of the pilot
7 program and information regarding the marketability and subsequent
8 teaching careers of participating students.

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

19 (j) The biennial report produced by the board before
20 September 1, 2029, must include a recommendation regarding whether
21 the pilot program should be continued, expanded, or terminated.

22 (k) Before September 1, 2031, the board shall conduct a
23 final survey of educator preparation program students and faculty
24 who participated in the pilot program at the selected institutions
25 at any time during the operation of the program, including feedback
26 regarding the results of the pilot program and information
27 regarding the marketability and teaching careers of participating

1 students. The board shall publish the results of the survey on its
2 Internet website.

3 (1) The pilot program concludes and this section expires
4 December 1, 2031.

5 SECTION 5. Section 29.9072, Education Code, as amended by
6 this Act, applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

7 SECTION 6. As soon as practicable after the effective date
8 of this Act, the Texas Historical Commission, in coordination with
9 the Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory
10 Commission, shall establish the grant program required by Section
11 29.90721, Education Code, as added by this Act.

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

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