

1-1 By: Menéndez, King S.B. No. 735
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed January 7, 2025; February 7, 2025,
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Education K-16;
 1-4 April 24, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 10,
 1-5 Nays 0; April 24, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11			X	
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18	X			

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to Holocaust education and training provided to students
 1-22 enrolled at public schools and public institutions of higher
 1-23 education.

1-24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-25 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 8, Education Code, is
 1-26 amended by adding Section 8.065 to read as follows:

1-27 Sec. 8.065. COLLABORATION WITH HOLOCAUST MUSEUMS. Each
 1-28 regional education service center shall on a regular basis
 1-29 collaborate with one or more of the Holocaust museums in this state
 1-30 to expand educator training and classroom education opportunities
 1-31 regarding Holocaust education.

1-32 SECTION 2. Section 29.9072, Education Code, is amended by
 1-33 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (d) and (e) to read
 1-34 as follows:

1-35 (a) In this section, "Holocaust" has the meaning assigned by
 1-36 Section 448.001 [~~449.001~~], Government Code.

1-37 (d) Not later than June 1 of each school year, each school
 1-38 district and open-enrollment charter school shall submit to the
 1-39 agency a report regarding the Holocaust Remembrance Week
 1-40 instruction offered by the district or school for that school year
 1-41 under this section. The report must include the activities,
 1-42 lessons, and instructional materials used for the instruction.

1-43 (e) As soon as practicable after June 1 of each school year,
 1-44 the agency shall compile all reports submitted under Subsection (d)
 1-45 for the school year and submit the compiled information to each
 1-46 regional education service center and the Texas Holocaust,
 1-47 Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission.

1-48 SECTION 3. Subchapter Z, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
 1-49 amended by adding Section 29.90721 to read as follows:

1-50 Sec. 29.90721. HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE WEEK GRANT PROGRAM.

1-51 (a) In this section:

1-52 (1) "Advisory commission" means the Texas Holocaust,
 1-53 Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission.

1-54 (2) "Commission" means the Texas Historical
 1-55 Commission.

1-56 (3) "Holocaust" has the meaning assigned by Section
 1-57 448.001, Government Code.

1-58 (b) From money appropriated for purposes of this section,
 1-59 the commission, in coordination with the advisory commission, shall
 1-60 establish and administer a grant program to provide grants to
 1-61 school districts and museums, centers, and other relevant

2-1 organizations in this state to assist in the implementation of
 2-2 Holocaust Remembrance Week instruction under Section 29.9072. The
 2-3 commission may award a grant for purposes of:

2-4 (1) developing optional, age-appropriate lesson plans
 2-5 for classroom teachers who lack relevant subject matter expertise
 2-6 regarding the Holocaust;

2-7 (2) sponsoring student field trips to the Holocaust
 2-8 museums in this state, with priority given to campuses in urban and
 2-9 rural districts;

2-10 (3) providing training approved by the advisory
 2-11 commission for educators and for administrators who manage
 2-12 professional development and teacher training in each district;

2-13 (4) cataloging and expanding relevant audiovisual and
 2-14 digital classroom resources, including resources maintained by
 2-15 Holocaust museums in this state; and

2-16 (5) developing, in collaboration with museums,
 2-17 bilingual curricula to meet the needs of more students in this state
 2-18 and making the curricula available on the advisory commission's
 2-19 Internet website.

2-20 (c) The commission, in coordination with the advisory
 2-21 commission, shall adopt rules as necessary to establish and
 2-22 administer the grant program under this section.

2-23 SECTION 4. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
 2-24 amended by adding Section 61.0767 to read as follows:

2-25 Sec. 61.0767. EDUCATOR PREPARATION PILOT PROGRAM TO IMPROVE
 2-26 DELIVERY OF HOLOCAUST EDUCATION. (a) The board shall establish a
 2-27 pilot program at institutions of higher education selected by the
 2-28 board to train students enrolled in an educator preparation program
 2-29 to provide more effective instruction related to the history and
 2-30 remembrance of the Holocaust. The board may adopt rules as
 2-31 necessary to administer this section.

2-32 (b) An institution of higher education selected under this
 2-33 section must have an educator preparation program approved by the
 2-34 State Board for Educator Certification or be affiliated with a
 2-35 program approved by the State Board for Educator Certification.

2-36 (c) At least 50 percent of the institutions of higher
 2-37 education selected by the board must be located in an area or likely
 2-38 to graduate educators who will teach in a public school in an area
 2-39 where the applicable school district has demonstrated low
 2-40 participation in Holocaust Remembrance Week instruction.

2-41 (d) The board shall collaborate with the Texas Holocaust,
 2-42 Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission to establish
 2-43 minimum curriculum requirements, guidelines, and procedures
 2-44 necessary for the implementation of the pilot program.

2-45 (e) The board shall use any funds appropriated or otherwise
 2-46 made available for purposes of the pilot program and may accept
 2-47 gifts, grants, and donations to fund the pilot program.

2-48 (f) The pilot program shall operate for four full academic
 2-49 years.

2-50 (g) An institution of higher education selected for the
 2-51 pilot program shall annually report to the board in the manner
 2-52 prescribed by the board data and information regarding the
 2-53 operation of the pilot program.

2-54 (h) The report required by Subsection (g) must contain, with
 2-55 respect to the preceding academic year:

2-56 (1) a description of the manner in which the selected
 2-57 institution complied with the purpose of the pilot program and any
 2-58 difficulties encountered in complying with that purpose, including
 2-59 timelines related to implementing the pilot program;

2-60 (2) data regarding the institution's students
 2-61 receiving instruction under the pilot program through an educator
 2-62 preparation program;

2-63 (3) information regarding any third-party entities or
 2-64 organizations the institution collaborates with to deliver
 2-65 instruction under the pilot program through an educator preparation
 2-66 program; and

2-67 (4) a survey of educator preparation program students
 2-68 and faculty who participated in the pilot program at the
 2-69 institution, including feedback regarding the results of the pilot

3-1 program and information regarding the marketability and subsequent
3-2 teaching careers of participating students.

3-3 (i) The board shall compile a biennial report based on the
3-4 data and information received under Subsection (g) regarding the
3-5 operation of the pilot program and the results of the survey of
3-6 educator preparation program students and faculty who participated
3-7 in the pilot program at each of the selected institutions during the
3-8 preceding biennium. Not later than September 1 of each
3-9 odd-numbered year, the board shall deliver a copy of the report to
3-10 the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of
3-11 representatives, and the chair of each standing committee of the
3-12 legislature having primary jurisdiction over higher education.

3-13 (j) The biennial report produced by the board before
3-14 September 1, 2029, must include a recommendation regarding whether
3-15 the pilot program should be continued, expanded, or terminated.

3-16 (k) Before September 1, 2031, the board shall conduct a
3-17 final survey of educator preparation program students and faculty
3-18 who participated in the pilot program at the selected institutions
3-19 at any time during the operation of the program, including feedback
3-20 regarding the results of the pilot program and information
3-21 regarding the marketability and teaching careers of participating
3-22 students. The board shall publish the results of the survey on its
3-23 Internet website.

3-24 (l) The pilot program concludes and this section expires
3-25 December 1, 2031.

3-26 SECTION 5. Section 29.9072, Education Code, as amended by
3-27 this Act, applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

3-28 SECTION 6. As soon as practicable after the effective date
3-29 of this Act, the Texas Historical Commission, in coordination with
3-30 the Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory
3-31 Commission, shall establish the grant program required by Section
3-32 29.90721, Education Code, as added by this Act.

3-33 SECTION 7. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
3-34 shall select public institutions of higher education for the pilot
3-35 program required under Section 61.0767, Education Code, as added by
3-36 this Act, not later than May 1, 2026.

3-37 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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