

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 416

BY REPRESENTATIVE HODGES

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

CURRICULA: Requires instruction regarding World War II and the Holocaust for middle and high school students and training for teachers relative to such instruction

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:280.1 and 3996(B)(59), relative to required instruction in public schools;  
3 to require public school governing authorities to provide instruction relative to World  
4 War II and the Holocaust to each student in grades nine through twelve; to provide  
5 for the incorporation of the instruction into an existing required course; to specify  
6 requirements relative to the content of the instruction; to require training for certain  
7 teachers relative to such instruction; to provide for an effective date; and to provide  
8 for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 17:280.1 and 3996(B)(59) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §280.1. World War II and the Holocaust; required instruction; teacher training

12 A. Each public school governing authority shall provide age and grade  
13 appropriate instruction regarding World War II and the Holocaust to students in  
14 grades nine through twelve. Such instruction shall be incorporated into an existing  
15 required course, such as American History, and include, at minimum, the following:

16 (1)(a) The history of World War II and the Holocaust, including but not  
17 limited to the Third Reich, the concentration camp system, anti-Semitism, the  
18 persecution of Jews and non-Jews, Jewish and non-Jewish resistance, and the  
19 Nuremberg trials.

1           (b) The impact of personal responsibility, civic engagement, and societal  
2           response in the context of World War II and the Holocaust.

3           (c) The connection between national, ethnic, racial, and religious intolerance  
4           and the subjects provided in Subparagraphs (a) and (b) of this Paragraph.

5           (d) The leading role played by the United States and the United States  
6           Armed Forces, including African American soldiers, including but not limited to the  
7           Tuskegee Airmen, and Asian American soldiers, in defeating the Third Reich and  
8           liberating Nazi concentration camps.

9           B. Each public school governing authority shall incorporate World War II  
10           and Holocaust instruction training into the existing in-service training program or as  
11           part of a professional development day for teachers whose responsibilities include  
12           courses of study into which the instruction is incorporated. This training shall cover  
13           the topics required by Subsection A of this Section.

14           C. In order to satisfy the requirements of this Section, each public school  
15           governing authority shall make available to its schools the free curriculum from the  
16           National World War II Museum in New Orleans or such other free curriculum that  
17           is available from authoritative sources or postsecondary education institutions.

18           D.(1) Not later than March thirty-first annually, each public school  
19           governing authority shall submit a written report to the state Department of  
20           Education relative to the compliance of schools under its jurisdiction with the  
21           instruction and training requirements of this Section. For schools that are not in  
22           compliance, the report shall include an action plan to ensure compliance by the  
23           beginning of the following school year.

24           (2) Not later than April thirtieth annually, the department shall submit a  
25           report to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on  
26           Education that summarizes the information provided to the department pursuant to  
27           Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.

28           E. For purposes of this Section, the following definitions shall apply:

1                   (1) "Holocaust" means the systematic state-sponsored killing of six million  
2 Jewish men, women, and children and five million non-Jews by Nazi Germany and  
3 its collaborators during World War II.

4                   (2) "Nazi" means the byname for the National Socialist German Workers'  
5 Party, a political party of the mass movement known as national socialism under  
6 which its leader, Adolf Hitler, came to power in 1933 and governed by totalitarian  
7 methods until 1945.

8                   (3) "United States Armed Forces" means the branches of the United States  
9 military or the departments of the United States military as defined in 10 U.S.C. 101.

10                                   \*           \*           \*

11                           §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

12                                   \*           \*           \*

13                   B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and  
14 except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a  
15 charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this  
16 Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be  
17 exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are  
18 applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for  
19 the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

20                                   \*           \*           \*

21                   (59) Instruction and teacher training relative to World War II and the  
22 Holocaust, R.S. 17:280.1.

23                                   \*           \*           \*

24                   Section 2. The legislature finds the following:

25                   (A) Recent studies have shown there to be a lack of awareness when it comes  
26 to historical facts about the Holocaust, its causes, and its ramifications.

27                   (B) In order to provide children with an understanding of the importance of  
28 the protection of human rights and the potential consequences of unchecked

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

1 ignorance, discrimination, and persecution, it is a matter of high priority that they be  
2 educated concerning the Holocaust.

3 (C) Sources of free curricula and instructional materials for Holocaust  
4 education include but are not limited to the United States Holocaust Memorial  
5 Museum, the Pennsylvania State University Center for Holocaust and Jewish  
6 Studies, Echoes and Reflections, Yad Vashem: The World Holocaust Remembrance  
7 Center, and the University of Southern California Shoah Foundation.

8 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
9 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
10 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
11 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
12 effective on the day following such approval.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 416 Engrossed

2021 Regular Session

Hodges

**Abstract:** Requires instruction on World War II and the Holocaust in grades nine through 12 and in-service training for teachers on such instruction.

Proposed law requires each public school governing authority to provide the following:

- (1) Age and grade appropriate instruction regarding World War II and the Holocaust to students in grade nine through 12, incorporated into an existing required course such as American History. Provides specific instruction items to be included.
- (2) Training for teachers whose responsibilities include courses of study into which this instruction is incorporated.

Proposed law further provides the following:

- (1) Requires each public school governing authority to make available to its schools the free curriculum from the National WWII Museum in New Orleans.
- (2) Requires each public school governing authority to submit an annual report to the state Dept. of Education (DOE) relative to the compliance of schools under its jurisdiction with proposed law; for those schools not in compliance, requires the report to include an action plan to ensure compliance.
- (3) Requires DOE to submit an annual report to the House and Senate education committees summarizing the information provided to the DOE pursuant to (2) above.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:280.1 and 3996(B)(59))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Require instruction in high school rather than in grades 6-12.
2. Require each public school governing authority to make available to its schools the free curriculum from the National WWII Museum in New Orleans.
3. Specify that instruction on the role of U.S. Armed Forces include African American and Asian American members of the military.