

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 25, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 23, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 22, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 1, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1915

Introduced by Assembly Members Nazarian and Achadjian
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ammiano, Ian Calderon,
Fox, ~~Gatto, Hall, Hall~~, Holden, Nestande, Patterson, and Wilk)
(Coauthors: Senators Berryhill, Lara, ~~Vidak, and Yee and Vidak)~~

February 19, 2014

An act to amend Sections 51220 and 51226.3 of the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1915, as amended, Nazarian. Pupil instruction: social sciences: Armenian Genocide.

Existing law requires the adopted course of study for grades 7 to 12, inclusive, to offer courses in specified areas of study, including social sciences. Existing law requires the instruction in social studies to provide instruction in, among other things, human rights issues, with particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of genocide, slavery, and the Holocaust.

This bill would enact the Armenian Genocide Education Act and would require the instruction in human rights issues to also include particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of the Armenian Genocide, as defined. To the extent this bill would increase the level

of service required to be provided by school districts, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Existing law requires the State Department of Education to incorporate materials relating to civil rights, human rights violations, genocide, slavery, and the Holocaust into publications that provide examples of curriculum resources, consistent with the subject frameworks on history and social science and other requirements. Under existing law, the Legislature encourages the incorporation of survivor, rescuer, liberator, and witness testimony into the teaching of human rights, genocide, and the Holocaust. Existing law establishes the Instructional Quality Commission and requires the commission to, among other things, recommend curriculum frameworks to the State Board of Education.

This bill would *instead require the department to consider incorporating materials relating to civil rights, human rights violations, genocide, slavery, the Armenian genocide, and the Holocaust into publications that provide examples of curriculum resources, consistent with the subject frameworks on history and social science. The bill would also encourage the department to incorporate materials related to the Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, and Rwandan genocides into those publications, and would require the commission to consider including the Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, and Rwandan genocides for inclusion in the recommended history-social science curriculum framework when the history-social science curriculum framework is revised as required by law. The bill would also specify that the Legislature encourages the incorporation of survivor, rescuer, liberator, and witness testimony oral testimony, as defined, into the teaching of human rights, the Holocaust, and genocide, including the Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, and Rwandan genocides.*

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the
2 Armenian Genocide Education Act.

3 SEC. 2. Section 51220 of the Education Code is amended to
4 read:

5 51220. The adopted course of study for grades 7 to 12,
6 inclusive, shall offer courses in the following areas of study:

7 (a) English, including knowledge of and appreciation for
8 literature, language, and composition, and the skills of reading,
9 listening, and speaking.

10 (b) Social sciences, drawing upon the disciplines of
11 anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science,
12 psychology, and sociology, designed to fit the maturity of the
13 pupils. Instruction shall provide a foundation for understanding
14 the history, resources, development, and government of California
15 and the United States of America; instruction in our American
16 legal system, the operation of the juvenile and adult criminal justice
17 systems, and the rights and duties of citizens under the criminal
18 and civil law and the State and Federal Constitutions; the
19 development of the American economic system, including the role
20 of the entrepreneur and labor; the relations of persons to their
21 human and natural environment; eastern and western cultures and
22 civilizations; human rights issues, with particular attention to the
23 study of the inhumanity of genocide, slavery, the Armenian
24 Genocide, and the Holocaust, and contemporary issues.

25 (c) Foreign language or languages, beginning not later than
26 grade 7, designed to develop a facility for understanding, speaking,
27 reading, and writing the particular language.

28 (d) Physical education, with emphasis given to physical activities
29 that are conducive to health and to vigor of body and mind, as
30 required by Section 51222.

31 (e) Science, including the physical and biological aspects, with
32 emphasis on basic concepts, theories, and processes of scientific
33 investigation and on the place of humans in ecological systems,
34 and with appropriate applications of the interrelation and
35 interdependence of the sciences.

36 (f) Mathematics, including instruction designed to develop
37 mathematical understandings, operational skills, and insight into
38 problem-solving procedures.

1 (g) Visual and performing arts, including dance, music, theater,
2 and visual arts, with emphasis upon development of aesthetic
3 appreciation and the skills of creative expression.

4 (h) Applied arts, including instruction in the areas of consumer
5 and homemaking education, industrial arts, general business
6 education, or general agriculture.

7 (i) Career technical education designed and conducted for the
8 purpose of preparing youth for gainful employment in the
9 occupations and in the numbers that are appropriate to the
10 personnel needs of the state and the community served and relevant
11 to the career desires and needs of the pupils.

12 (j) Automobile driver education, designed to develop a
13 knowledge of the provisions of the Vehicle Code and other laws
14 of this state relating to the operation of motor vehicles, a proper
15 acceptance of personal responsibility in traffic, a true appreciation
16 of the causes, seriousness, and consequences of traffic accidents,
17 and to develop the knowledge and attitudes necessary for the safe
18 operation of motor vehicles. A course in automobile driver
19 education shall include education in the safe operation of
20 motorcycles.

21 (k) Other studies as may be prescribed by the governing board.

22 SEC. 3. Section 51226.3 of the Education Code is amended to
23 read:

24 51226.3. (a) (1) The department shall ~~incorporate~~ *consider*
25 *incorporating* into publications that provide examples of
26 curriculum resources for teacher use those materials developed by
27 publishers of nonfiction, trade books, and primary sources, or other
28 public or private organizations, that are age-appropriate and
29 consistent with the subject frameworks on history and social
30 science that deal with civil rights, human rights violations,
31 genocide, slavery, *the Armenian genocide*, and the Holocaust.

32 (2) The Legislature encourages the department to incorporate
33 into publications that provide examples of curriculum resources
34 for teacher use those materials developed by publishers of
35 nonfiction, trade books, and primary sources, or other public or
36 private organizations, that are age-appropriate and consistent with
37 the subject frameworks on history and social science that deal with
38 the Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, and Rwandan genocides.

39 (b) (1) The Legislature encourages the incorporation of
40 survivor, rescuer, liberator, and witness *oral* testimony into the

1 teaching of human rights, the Holocaust, and genocide, including,
2 but not limited to, the Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, and Rwandan
3 genocides.

4 (2) *As used in this subdivision, “oral testimony” means the*
5 *firsthand accounts of significant historical events presented in a*
6 *format that includes, but is not limited to, in-person testimony,*
7 *video, or a multimedia option, such as a DVD or an online video.*

8 (c) The Legislature encourages all state and local professional
9 development activities to provide teachers with content background
10 and resources to assist them in teaching about civil rights, human
11 rights violations, genocide, slavery, the Armenian Genocide, and
12 the Holocaust.

13 (d) The Legislature encourages all state and local professional
14 development activities to provide teachers with content background
15 and resources to assist them in teaching about the Great Irish
16 Famine of 1845–50.

17 (e) The Great Irish Famine of 1845–50 shall be considered in
18 the next cycle in which the history-social science curriculum
19 framework and its accompanying instructional materials are
20 adopted.

21 (f) When the history-social science curriculum framework is
22 revised as required by law, the Instructional Quality Commission
23 shall consider including the Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, and
24 Rwandan genocides in the *recommended* history-social science
25 curriculum framework.

26 (g) The Model Curriculum for Human Rights and Genocide
27 adopted by the state board, pursuant to Section 51226, shall be
28 made available to schools in grades 7 to 12, inclusive, as soon as
29 funding is available for this purpose. In addition, the department
30 shall make the curriculum available on its Internet Web site.

31 (h) For purposes of this article, “Armenian Genocide” means
32 the torture, starvation, and murder of 1,500,000 Armenians, which
33 included death marches into the Syrian desert, by the rulers of the
34 Ottoman Turkish Empire and the exile of more than 500,000
35 innocent people during the period from 1915 to 1923, inclusive.

36 SEC. 4. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
37 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
38 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made

- 1 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
- 2 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

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