

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 19, 2014

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**

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

February 19, 2014

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An act to amend ~~Sections 51220 and~~ *Section 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 enact the Armenian Genocide Education Act and* 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 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 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-no*.

*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.~~

23 *SEC. 2.* Section 51226.3 of the Education Code is amended to  
 24 read:

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

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

1 (b) (1) The Legislature encourages the incorporation of survivor,  
2 rescuer, liberator, and witness oral testimony into the teaching of  
3 human rights, the Holocaust, and genocide, including, but not  
4 limited to, the Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, and Rwandan  
5 genocides.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

38 ~~SEC. 4. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that~~  
39 ~~this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to~~  
40 ~~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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