

# SENATE BILL 416

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By: **Senators Kramer, Ellis, Feldman, Guzzone, Patterson, Peters, Smith,  
Waldstreicher, Young, Zirkin, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2019

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Curriculum – Holocaust and Genocide Unit**  
3 **(Lessons of the Holocaust and Genocide Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of declaring the intent of the General Assembly regarding instruction on  
5 the Holocaust and genocide; requiring public middle schools and high schools and  
6 certain nonpublic middle schools and high schools to include in the curriculum a unit  
7 of instruction on the Holocaust and genocide that is consistent with certain  
8 guidelines; requiring the State Board of Education to develop certain guidelines on  
9 or before a certain date; encouraging certain nonpublic middle schools and high  
10 schools to include in the curriculum a unit of study on the Holocaust and genocide;  
11 and generally relating to the study of the Holocaust and genocide in middle and high  
12 school curriculums.

13 BY adding to  
14 Article – Education  
15 Section 7–125  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

18 Preamble

19 WHEREAS, The Holocaust was a historical event that resulted in the systematic,  
20 state-sponsored mass murder of 6,000,000 Jews and millions of other people by Nazi  
21 Germany in the name of racial purity; and

22 WHEREAS, The Holocaust was a watershed event in the course of human history,  
23 not an accident in history; it occurred because individuals, organizations, and governments  
24 made choices that legalized discrimination leading to prejudice, hatred, and mass murder;  
25 and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Social media and technology are being used to disseminate false and  
2 inaccurate information about the Holocaust; and

3 WHEREAS, Recent surveys have revealed that Americans have fundamental gaps  
4 in their knowledge of Holocaust history, particularly individuals between the ages of 18  
5 and 34; and

6 WHEREAS, Education is fundamental in ensuring that the Holocaust is not  
7 forgotten and, therefore, repeated; and

8 WHEREAS, Holocaust education will help students understand the roots and  
9 ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping; develop an awareness of the value of  
10 pluralism and diversity; explore the dangers of remaining silent, apathetic, and indifferent  
11 to the oppression of others; and learn how the abuse of power can lead to the  
12 implementation of destructive policies resulting in government–sponsored policies ranging  
13 from social engineering to genocide; now, therefore,

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
15 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Education**

17 **7–125.**

18 **(A) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE LESSONS OF**  
19 **THE HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE BE TAUGHT TO THE STUDENTS OF MARYLAND TO**  
20 **ENSURE THAT THE UNIQUE TRAGEDY THAT IS THE HOLOCAUST AS WELL AS OTHER**  
21 **GENOCIDES THAT HAVE OCCURRED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD ARE NEVER**  
22 **FORGOTTEN AND THAT INDIVIDUALS BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW TO PREVENT**  
23 **THESE TYPES OF EVENTS IN THE FUTURE.**

24 **(B) CONSISTENT WITH GUIDELINES DEVELOPED BY THE STATE BOARD**  
25 **UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, EACH PUBLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL OR HIGH**  
26 **SCHOOL IN THE STATE, AND EACH NONPUBLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL OR HIGH SCHOOL**  
27 **THAT PARTICIPATES IN STATE–FUNDED EDUCATION PROGRAMS, SHALL INCLUDE IN**  
28 **THE CURRICULUM A UNIT OF INSTRUCTION ON:**

29 **(1) THE HOLOCAUST; AND**

30 **(2) OTHER HISTORIC AND CONTEMPORARY ACTS OF GENOCIDE.**

31 **(C) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2020, THE STATE BOARD SHALL DEVELOP**  
32 **GUIDELINES FOR INSTRUCTIONAL CONTENT ON THE HOLOCAUST AND OTHER**  
33 **HISTORIC AND CONTEMPORARY ACTS OF GENOCIDE THAT IS AGE–APPROPRIATE,**  
34 **INTERDISCIPLINARY, AND CONSISTENT WITH OTHER REQUIRED GRADE LEVEL**

1 INSTRUCTION.

2 (D) A NONPUBLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL OR HIGH SCHOOL THAT DOES NOT  
3 PARTICIPATE IN STATE-FUNDED EDUCATION PROGRAMS IS ENCOURAGED TO  
4 INCLUDE IN THE CURRICULUM A UNIT OF INSTRUCTION ON THE HOLOCAUST AND  
5 OTHER HISTORIC AND CONTEMPORARY ACTS OF GENOCIDE CONSISTENT WITH  
6 GUIDELINES DEVELOPED BY THE STATE BOARD UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS  
7 SECTION.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
9 1, 2019.