HLS 20RS-668 **ORIGINAL**

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 253

BY REPRESENTATIVE HODGES

CURRICULA: Requires classroom instruction regarding the Holocaust for high school students

| 1 | AN ACT |
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| 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 the |
| 4 | Holocaust to each high school student; to provide for the incorporation of the |
| 5 | instruction into an existing required course; to specify requirements relative to the |
| 6 | content of the instruction; and to provide for related matters. |
| 7 | Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana: |
| 8 | Section 1. R.S. 17:280.1 and 3996(B)(59) are hereby enacted to read as follows: |
| 9 | §280.1. The Holocaust; required instruction |
| 0 | A. The governing authority of each public high school shall provide |
| 1 | classroom instruction regarding the Holocaust. Such instruction shall be integrated |
| 12 | into an existing course of study that is a prerequisite to graduation. |
| 13 | B. Such instruction shall, at a minimum, do the following: |
| 4 | (1) Define terms, including Holocaust, antisemitism, and genocide, that are |
| 15 | necessary for students to fully understand the content. |
| 16 | (2) Provide background on the history of antisemitism in order to help |
| 17 | students understand the role that it played in the Holocaust. |
| 18 | (3) Contextualize history in order to help students understand what happened |
| 19 | before and after specific events, who was involved, and where the events took place. |
| 20 | (4) Translate statistics into personal stories, using survivor and witness |
| 21 | testimony when possible. |
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CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

| 1 | (5) Highlight examples of how victims attempted to retain their humanity in |
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| 2 | the face of dehumanization. |
| 3 | (6) Introduce victims' lives before World War II and their return to life after |
| 4 | the war to provide context for their choices, dilemmas, and actions. |
| 5 | (7) Focus on decisions made by individuals prior to, during, and after the |
| 6 | Holocaust, including bystanders, collaborators, perpetrators, and rescuers. |
| 7 | (8) Use primary source materials and provide a variety of print and digital |
| 8 | resources from different perspectives in order to enrich students' understanding. |
| 9 | (8) Connect what students are learning to contemporary events while |
| 10 | distinguishing between the unique history of the Holocaust and what can be learned |
| 11 | from this history. |
| 12 | (10) Encourage inquiry-based learning and critical thinking while supporting |
| 13 | students' sharing of ideas and asking questions of themselves and others. |
| 14 | (11) Foster empathy by challenging students to understand people and their |
| 15 | attitudes and actions in a historical context using sound approaches and strategies. |
| 16 | * * * |
| 17 | §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements |
| 18 | * * * |
| 19 | B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and |
| 20 | except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a |
| 21 | charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this |
| 22 | Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be |
| 23 | exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are |
| 24 | applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for |
| 25 | the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades: |
| 26 | * * * |
| 27 | (59) Instruction on the Holocaust, R.S. 17:280.1. |
| 28 | * * * |

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)]

HB 253 Original

2020 Regular Session

Hodges

Abstract: Requires classroom instruction on the Holocaust to be provided to high school students.

<u>Proposed law</u> requires the governing authority of each public high school to provide classroom instruction regarding the Holocaust and provides for such instruction to be integrated into an existing course of study that is a prerequisite to graduation. Specifies particular components that must be included in the instruction. Applicable to all public high schools, including charter schools.

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