

18A:4A-1

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST  
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NJSA: 18A:4A-1

(Holocaust  
Education--Commission  
on--establish)

LAWS OF: 1991

CHAPTER: 193

Bill No: A986

Sponsor(s): McGreevey

Date Introduced: Pre-filed

Committee: Assembly: Education

Senate: -----

Amended during passage: Yes      Amendments during  
denoted by asterisks.

Date of Passage: Assembly: May 9, 1990

Senate: June 30, 1991

Date of Approval: July 3, 1991

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement: Yes

Committee Statement: Assembly: Yes

Senate: No

Fiscal Note: Yes

Veto Message: No

Message on signing: Yes

Following were printed:

Reports: No

Hearings: No

See newspaper clippings--attached:

KBG/SLJ

[FIRST REPRINT]  
ASSEMBLY, No. 986

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1990 SESSION

By Assemblymen McGREEVEY, JACOBSON,  
Roma and Cohen

1 **AN ACT** creating the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust  
2 Education <sup>1</sup>[, and making an appropriation]<sup>1</sup>.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*  
5 *State of New Jersey:*

6 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

7 a. During the period from 1933 to 1945, six million Jews and  
8 millions of other Europeans were murdered in Nazi concentration  
9 camps as part of a carefully orchestrated program of cultural,  
10 social and political genocide known as the Holocaust;

11 b. All people should remember the horrible atrocities  
12 committed at that time and other times in human history as the  
13 result of bigotry and tyranny and, therefore, should continually  
14 rededicate themselves to the principles of human rights and equal  
15 protection under the laws of a democratic society;

16 c. It is desirable to educate our citizens about the events  
17 leading up to the Holocaust and about the organizations and  
18 facilities that were created and used purposefully for the  
19 systematic destruction of human beings;

20 d. It is the policy of the State of New Jersey that Holocaust  
21 history is the proper concern of all people, particularly students  
22 enrolled in the schools of the State of New Jersey;

23 e. The New Jersey Department of Education, in conjunction  
24 with the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the New  
25 Jersey Education Association, and the New Jersey Council for  
26 Social Studies, has developed a curriculum, entitled "The  
27 Holocaust and Genocide: A Search for Conscience," which has  
28 been implemented in courses of study on a trial basis in Vineland  
29 and Teaneck and, subsequently, in other communities;

30 f. Programs, workshops, institutes, seminars, and other  
31 teacher-training activities for the study of the Holocaust have  
32 taken place during recent years at various high schools and  
33 colleges in the State of New Jersey; and

34 g. It is desirable to create a State-level commission, which as  
35 an organized body, on a continuous basis, will survey, design,  
36 encourage, and promote implementation of Holocaust education  
37 and awareness programs in New Jersey and shall be responsible  
38 for the coordination of events that will provide appropriate

EXPLANATION--Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the  
above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup> Assembly AED committee amendments adopted April 29, 1991.

1 memorialization of the Holocaust, on a regular basis, throughout  
2 the State.

3 2. a. The New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education is  
4 created and established in the Executive Branch of the State  
5 Government. For the purposes of complying with the provisions  
6 of Article V, Section IV, paragraph 1 of the New Jersey  
7 Constitution, the commission is allocated within the Department  
8 of <sup>1</sup>[State] Education<sup>1</sup>, but notwithstanding this allocation, the  
9 commission shall be independent of any supervision or control by  
10 the department or any board or officer thereof.

11 The commission shall consist of 21 members, including the  
12 <sup>1</sup>[Secretary of State, the]<sup>1</sup> Commissioner of Education and the  
13 Chancellor of Higher Education, serving ex officio, and <sup>1</sup>[18] 19<sup>1</sup>  
14 public members.

15 Public members shall be appointed as follows: three public  
16 members shall be appointed by the President of the Senate; three  
17 public members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the General  
18 Assembly; and <sup>1</sup>[12] 13<sup>1</sup> public members shall be appointed by the  
19 Governor, no less than six of whom shall at the time of their  
20 appointment be members of the New Jersey Advisory Council on  
21 Holocaust Education, created pursuant to Executive Order No. 17  
22 of 1982 and continued pursuant to Executive Order No. 87 of 1984  
23 <sup>1</sup>[and],<sup>1</sup> Executive Order No. 168 of 1987 <sup>1</sup>and Executive Order  
24 No. 225 of 1990, and further continued pursuant to Executive  
25 Order No. 14 of 1990<sup>1</sup>. The public members shall be residents of  
26 this State, chosen with due regard to broad geographic  
27 representation and ethnic diversity, who have served prominently  
28 as spokespersons for, or as leaders of organizations which serve,  
29 members of religious, ethnic, national heritage or social groups  
30 which were subjected to genocide, torture, wrongful deprivation  
31 of liberty or property, officially imposed or sanctioned violence,  
32 and other forms of human rights violations and persecution at the  
33 hands of the Nazis and their collaborators during the Nazi era, or  
34 they shall be residents who are experienced in the field of  
35 Holocaust education.

36 b. Each public member of the commission shall serve for a  
37 term of three years, except that of the initial members so  
38 appointed: one member appointed by the President of the Senate,  
39 one member appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly,  
40 and four members appointed by the Governor shall serve for  
41 terms of one year; one member appointed by the President of the  
42 Senate, one member appointed by the Speaker of the General  
43 Assembly, and four members appointed by the Governor shall  
44 serve for terms of two years; and one member appointed by the  
45 President of the Senate, one member appointed by the Speaker of  
46 the General Assembly, and <sup>1</sup>[four] five<sup>1</sup> members appointed by  
47 the Governor shall serve for terms of three years. Public  
48 members shall be eligible for reappointment. They shall serve  
49 until their successors are appointed and qualified, and the term of  
50 the successor of any incumbent shall be calculated from the

1 expiration of the term of that incumbent. A vacancy occurring  
2 other than by expiration of term shall be filled in the same  
3 manner as the original appointment but for the unexpired term  
4 only.

5 c. The members of the commission shall serve without  
6 compensation, but they shall be entitled to reimbursement for all  
7 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

8 d. The commission shall annually elect a chairman from among  
9 its members. It shall meet upon the call of the chairman or of a  
10 majority of the commission members. The presence of a majority  
11 of the authorized membership of the commission shall be required  
12 for the conduct of official business.

13 e. The commission shall appoint an executive director, who  
14 shall serve at its pleasure and shall be a person qualified by  
15 training and experience to perform the duties of the office.

16 3. The commission shall have the following responsibilities and  
17 duties:

18 a. To provide, based upon the collective knowledge and  
19 experience of its members, assistance and advice to the public  
20 and private schools with respect to the implementation of  
21 Holocaust education and awareness programs ;

22 b. To meet with county and local school officials and other  
23 interested public and private organizations, including service  
24 organizations, for the purpose of assisting with the planning,  
25 coordination or modification of courses of study dealing with the  
26 subject of the Holocaust;

27 c. To survey and catalog the extent and breadth of Holocaust  
28 and genocide education presently being incorporated into the  
29 curricula and taught in the school systems of the State, to  
30 inventory those Holocaust memorials, exhibits and resources  
31 which could be incorporated in courses of study at various  
32 locations throughout the State, and, upon request, to assist the  
33 State Department of Education and other educational agencies in  
34 the development and implementation of Holocaust and genocide  
35 education programs. In furtherance of this responsibility, the  
36 commission shall be authorized to contact and cooperate with  
37 existing Holocaust and genocide public or private nonprofit  
38 resource organizations and may act as a liaison concerning  
39 Holocaust and genocide education to members of the United  
40 States Senate and House of Representatives and the New Jersey  
41 Senate and General Assembly;

42 d. To compile a roster of individual volunteers who are willing  
43 to share their knowledge and experience in classrooms, seminars  
44 and workshops on the subject of the Holocaust. These volunteers  
45 may be survivors of the Holocaust, liberators of concentration  
46 camps, scholars, clergymen, community relations professionals  
47 and other persons who, by virtue of their experience or interest,  
48 have acquired personal or academic knowledge of the Holocaust  
49 and who are willing to share that knowledge with students and  
50 teachers;

1 e. To coordinate events memorializing the Holocaust and to  
2 seek volunteers who are willing and able to participate in  
3 commemorative events that will enhance student awareness of  
4 the significance of the Holocaust; and

5 f. To prepare reports for the Governor and the Legislature  
6 regarding its findings and recommendations to facilitate the  
7 inclusion of Holocaust studies and special programs  
8 memorializing the Holocaust in educational systems in the State.

9 4. a. The commission is authorized to call upon any  
10 department, office, division or agency of the State, or of any  
11 county, municipality or school district of the State, to supply  
12 such data, program reports and other information, personnel and  
13 assistance as it deems necessary to discharge its responsibilities  
14 under this act.

15 b. These departments, offices, divisions and agencies shall, to  
16 the extent possible and not inconsistent with any other law of this  
17 State, cooperate with the commission and shall furnish it with  
18 such information, personnel and assistance as may be necessary  
19 or helpful to accomplish the purposes of this act.

20 <sup>1</sup>[5. There is appropriated \$250,000 from the General Fund to  
21 the commission to effectuate the purposes of this act.]<sup>1</sup>

22 <sup>1</sup>[6.] 5.<sup>1</sup> This act shall take effect on <sup>1</sup>[January 1, 1990]  
23 July 1, 1991<sup>1</sup>.

24

25

26 EDUCATION

27

28 Establishes the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education.

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2 commemorative events that will enhance student awareness of  
3 the significance of the Holocaust; and

4 f. To prepare reports for the Governor and the Legislature  
5 regarding its findings and recommendations to facilitate the  
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10 county, municipality or school district of the State, to supply  
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13 under this act.

14 b. These departments, offices, divisions and agencies shall, to  
15 the extent possible and not inconsistent with any other law of this  
16 State, cooperate with the commission and shall furnish it with  
17 such information, personnel and assistance as may be necessary  
18 or helpful to accomplish the purposes of this act.

19 5. There is appropriated \$250,000 from the General Fund to  
20 the commission to effectuate the purposes of this act.

21 6. This act shall take effect on January 1, 1990.

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#### STATEMENT

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26 This bill establishes the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust  
27 Education as a permanent statutory body established in the  
28 Department of State. At present, the New Jersey Advisory  
29 Council on Holocaust Education exists by authority of a series of  
30 executive orders that provide for its continuance through March  
31 1990.

32 The duties of the commission include giving assistance and  
33 advice to public and private schools concerning the  
34 implementation of Holocaust education and awareness programs  
35 in New Jersey schools; meeting with local school officials and  
36 other interested parties to assist with the planning, coordination  
37 or modification of Holocaust study programs; preparing a catalog  
38 of Holocaust and genocide education curricula in the State's  
39 schools; compiling a roster of experienced and knowledgeable  
40 volunteers willing to participate in Holocaust education and  
41 awareness programs; coordinating events memorializing the  
42 Holocaust; and reporting to the Governor and Legislature its  
43 findings and recommendations to facilitate the inclusion of  
44 Holocaust studies and special programs memorializing the  
45 Holocaust in educational systems in the State.

46 This legislation provides that the commission shall consist of 21  
47 members. The commission includes the Secretary of State, the  
48 Commissioner of Education and the Chancellor of Higher

1 Education as ex officio members and 18 public members. Three  
2 of the public members are to be appointed by the President of the  
3 Senate, three are to be appointed by the Speaker of the General  
4 Assembly, and 12 are to be appointed by the Governor. Of the  
5 Governor's first appointments, no less than six shall at the time  
6 of appointment be members of the aforementioned New Jersey  
7 Advisory Council on Holocaust Education. After the initial  
8 appointments, public members are to be appointed to staggered  
9 terms of three years each.

10 In addition, the bill stipulates that the commission shall appoint  
11 an executive director and provides an appropriation of \$250,000  
12 to the commission to effectuate the purposes of this act.

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#### EDUCATION

16

17 Establishes the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education;  
18 appropriates \$250,000.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 986

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: APRIL 29, 1991

The Assembly Education Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 986 as amended.

As amended, this bill establishes the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education as a permanent statutory body established in, but not of, the Department of Education. At present, the New Jersey Advisory Council on Holocaust Education exists by authority of a series of executive orders that provide for its continuance through June, 1991.

The duties of the commission include giving assistance and advice to public and private schools concerning the implementation of Holocaust education and awareness programs in New Jersey schools; meeting with local school officials and other interested parties to assist with the planning, coordination or modification of Holocaust study programs; preparing a catalog of Holocaust and genocide education curricula in the State's schools; compiling a roster of experienced and knowledgeable volunteers willing to participate in Holocaust education and awareness programs; coordinating events memorializing the Holocaust; and reporting to the Governor and Legislature its findings and recommendations to facilitate the inclusion of Holocaust studies and special programs memorializing the Holocaust in educational systems in the State.

The bill provides that the commission shall consist of 21 members, including the Commissioner of Education and the Chancellor of Higher Education as *ex officio* members and 19 public members. Three of the public members are to be appointed by the President of the Senate, three are to be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, and 13 are to be appointed by the Governor. Of the Governor's first appointments, no less than six shall at the time of appointment be members of the aforementioned New Jersey Advisory Council on Holocaust Education. After the initial appointments, public members are to be appointed to staggered terms of three years each.

In addition, the bill stipulates that the commission shall appoint an executive director.

The committee amendments transfer the commission from the Department of State to the Department of Education, and remove the Secretary of State from the commission, replacing him by an additional public member. The amendments also clarify the Executive Order under which the commission is currently operating.

The committee also amended the bill so that it will take effect on July 1, 1991 when the current council will expire, and deleted the



appropriation, since the council is funded through June 1991.

Representatives of the Governor's Advisory Council on Holocaust Education, the Department of Education, a member of the State Board of Education and members of the public testified in favor of the bill. A member of the public testified in opposition to the bill.

This bill was prefiled for introduction in the 1990 session pending technical review. As amended the bill includes the changes required by technical review which has been performed.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE TO

[FIRST REPRINT]

ASSEMBLY, No. 986

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: July 26, 1991

Assembly Bill No. 986 (1R) of 1990 establishes the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education as a permanent statutory body established in, but not of, the Department of Education. At present, the New Jersey Advisory Council on Holocaust Education exists by authority of a series of executive orders that provide for its continuance through June, 1991.

The duties of the commission include giving assistance and advice to public and private schools concerning the implementation of Holocaust education and awareness programs in New Jersey schools; meeting with local school officials and other interested parties to assist with the planning, coordination or modification of Holocaust study programs; preparing a catalog of Holocaust and genocide education curricula in the State's schools; compiling a roster of experienced and knowledgeable volunteers willing to participate in Holocaust education and awareness programs; coordinating events memorializing the Holocaust; and reporting to the Governor and Legislature its findings and recommendations to facilitate the inclusion of Holocaust studies and special programs memorializing the Holocaust in educational systems in the State. The commission is directed to appoint an executive director who shall serve at the pleasure of the commission and may call upon any public agency to provide information or staff support which may be necessary for it to carry out its mandated responsibilities.

The Office of Legislative Services notes that the Advisory Council on Holocaust Education, which currently performs the same duties as the proposed commission and is located within the Department of Education, expended \$80,000 and \$103,000 during Fiscal Years 1989 and 1990 respectively. As of June 4, 1991, the council had expended \$83,043 and is expected to spend about \$91,000 by the end of FY 1991. Of this amount, approximately \$25,000 is currently spent for the part time services of a paid consultant to assist the council in planning and coordinating its activities. An additional \$55,000 has been spent on grant awards and educational programs conducted by the commission, and the remaining portion was allocated for administrative expenses. The council is recommended to receive \$125,000 in FY 1992 to conduct operations.

The Office of Legislative Services notes that based upon the council's historical spending record, its FY 1992 recommended appropriation of \$125,000 would allow the commission to maintain its \$55,000 expenditure level for grant awards and educational

programs as well as provide for a full-time executive director to replace the part-time consultant at a salary of about \$40,000. A secretary earning approximately \$18,000 could also be hired. However, the OLS notes that the commission is permitted to call upon State and local agencies to provide information or staff support which may be necessary for it to carry out its mandated responsibilities. If the commission chooses to acquire its secretarial services in this manner, it would be able to shift this funding to other program areas and provide for additional grant awards and educational programs.

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67.

974.901  
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# OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR NEWS RELEASE

**CN-001**  
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**Release:** WEDNESDAY  
JULY 3, 1991

## GOVERNOR FLORIO SIGNS BILL TO CREATE PERMANENT COMMISSION ON HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

LAWRENCEVILLE -- Governor Jim Florio today signed a bill which will help New Jersey's schoolchildren learn about the Holocaust. The new law would make the State Commission on Holocaust Education, which currently exists by authority of an Executive Order signed in 1982, a permanent part of the Department of Education.

"Remembering the Holocaust is not simply an individual's responsibility. It's a community's duty. Every community," said Governor Florio.

In his remarks to an audience of teachers who had just completed one of the Commission's training sessions on the Holocaust at Rider College, the Governor said, "You will do more than just teach your students about a terrible moment in history. You are going to help them pass on values about tolerance and humanity."

"Unfortunately, education is not enough," he said. In recent months we've seen a rise in anti-semitic and racist incidents. The Klu Klux Klan has reared its ugly head in New Jersey. Our response to such bigotry must be clear and strong. We won't accept it. It has no place in New Jersey."

Under this bill the Commission will be given the responsibility to assist and advise the Commissioner of Education on the implementation of Holocaust education in the State's public and private schools. Commission members will meet with local and county school officials and other interested parties to assist with planning, coordinating or modifying courses of study dealing with the Holocaust.

The bill calls for the membership of the Commission to include the Commissioner of Education, the Chancellor of Higher Education and 19 public members. Three appointments each are made by the Senate President and the Assembly Speaker. The remaining 13 members are appointed by the Governor. They will serve for staggered three year terms following the initial appointment of no less than 6 members of the current advisory Council on Holocaust Education.

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