WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
Regular Session, 2001

ENROLLED
Committee Substitute for
SENATE BILL NO. 647

(By Senator Hunter, et al.)

PASSED April 13, 2001
In Effect 90 days from Passage
AN ACT to amend chapter five of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated article twenty-eight, relating to creating a commission on holocaust education.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That chapter five of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new article, designated article twenty-eight, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 28. COMMISSION ON HOLOCAUST EDUCATION.
§5-28-1. Legislative findings.

The Legislature finds and declares:

1. (1) That the holocaust perpetrated by the Nazis during the period between one thousand nine hundred thirty-three and one thousand nine hundred forty-five resulted in the genocide of six million Jews and millions of non-Jews as part of a carefully orchestrated central government program;

2. (2) That the holocaust stands as a grim reminder and warning to all generations of genocidal crimes and atrocities committed by man based on ignorance and fear and that all people should rededicate themselves to the principles of human rights and equal protection under the laws of a democratic society;

3. (3) That education can ensure that citizens are knowledgeable about the events leading up to the holocaust and about the organizations and facilities that were created and used purposefully for the systematic destruction of human beings and that the lessons of holistic trust and respect for peoples of various cultures are important for the citizens of West Virginia as they enter the global marketplace and economy;

4. (4) That programs, workshops, institutes, seminars, exhibits and other teacher training and public awareness activities for the study of the holocaust have taken place during recent years, but a central resource for schools, churches and communities studying the holocaust is needed;

5. (5) That, toward that end, the governor, by executive order No. 2-98, dated the sixteenth day of April, one thousand nine hundred ninety-eight, created and established the West Virginia holocaust commission on education; and
(6) That, in furtherance of the intent and purposes of the aforesaid executive order, it is the intent of the Legislature to create a permanent state commission which, as an organized body and on a continuous basis, will survey, design, encourage and promote implementation of holocaust education and awareness programs in West Virginia and will be responsible for organizing and promoting the memorialization of the holocaust on a regular basis throughout the state.


(a) Effective the first day of July, two thousand one, there is created the West Virginia commission on holocaust education.

(b) The commission is composed of eleven members: Two members currently serving on the state board of education, selected by the board; the state superintendent of schools or his or her designee; the director of the division of veterans’ affairs; one attorney from the attorney general’s office, civil rights division; one teacher who has completed professional development related to holocaust education teaching at the high school level and one teacher who has completed professional development related to holocaust education teaching at the junior high or middle school level, each appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate; four state residents, appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, who shall be: Individuals who are holocaust scholars or individuals experienced in the field of holocaust education or survivors, second generation, eye-witness/liberators or individuals recommended by the chair of the present holocaust education commission, created by executive order, who, by virtue of their interest, education or long-term involvement in human rights, prejudice reduction and holocaust education have demonstrated, through their past commitment and cooperation with the existing holocaust commission on education, their willingness to
27 work for holocaust awareness and education in West Virginia.

28 (c) Members of the commission shall be appointed for
29 terms of three years or until their prospective successors
30 are appointed and qualified. Members are eligible for
31 reappointment. Any member of the commission who fails
32 to attend more than two consecutive meetings without an
33 excuse approved by the commission may be removed from
34 the commission. All vacancies shall be filled by appoint-
35 ment in the same manner as the original appointment, and
36 the individual appointed to fill the vacancy serves for the
37 remainder of the unexpired term.

38 (d) The governor shall appoint a chairperson for the
39 commission for a term of three years and until his or her
40 successor is appointed and qualified.

41 (e) The speaker of the House of Delegates shall appoint
42 a member of the House of Delegates and the president of
43 the Senate shall appoint a member of the Senate to serve
44 as advisors to the commission.


1 (a) The commission shall:

2 (1) Provide, based upon the collective knowledge and
3 experience of its members, assistance and advice to public
4 and private schools, colleges and universities with respect
5 to the implementation of holocaust education and aware-
6 ness programs;

7 (2) Meet with appropriate education officials and other
8 interested public and private organizations, including
9 service organizations, for the purpose of providing infor-
10 mation, planning, coordination or modification of courses
11 of study or programs dealing with the subject of the
12 holocaust;

13 (3) Compile a roster of individual volunteers who are
14 willing to share their verifiable knowledge and experi-
15 ences in classrooms, seminars and workshops on the
subject of the holocaust. The volunteers may be survivors
of the holocaust, liberators of concentration camps,
scholars, members of the clergy, community relations
professionals or other persons who, by virtue of their
experience, education or interest, have experience with the
holocaust;

(4) Coordinate events memorializing the holocaust and
seek volunteers who are willing and able to participate in
commemorative events that will enhance public awareness
of the significance of the holocaust; and

(5) Prepare annual reports for the governor and the
Legislature regarding its findings and recommendations to
facilitate the inclusion of holocaust studies and special
programs memorializing the holocaust in educational
systems in this state.

(b) Members of the commission are not entitled to
compensation for services performed as members and are
not entitled to reimbursement for expenses.

§5-28-4. Continuation of the commission.

Pursuant to the provisions of article ten, chapter four of
this code, the West Virginia holocaust commission on
education shall continue to exist until the first day of July,
two thousand three, unless sooner terminated, continued
or reestablished by act of the Legislature.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee

Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

In effect ninety days from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

Speaker House of Delegates

The within is approved this the 2nd Day of May, 2001.

Governor