

1 AN ACT concerning government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Illinois Holocaust and Genocide Commission Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. In this Act:

7 "Commission" means the Illinois Holocaust and Genocide
8 Commission.

9 "Genocide" means any of the following acts committed with
10 intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic,
11 racial, or religious group as such:

12 (1) killing members of the group;

13 (2) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of
14 the group;

15 (3) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of
16 life calculated to bring about the group's physical
17 destruction in whole or in part;

18 (4) imposing measures intended to prevent births
19 within the group; or

20 (5) forcibly transferring children of the group to
21 another group.

22 "Holocaust" means the killing of approximately 6,000,000
23 Jews and millions of other persons during World War II by the

1 National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nazis) and Nazi
2 collaborators as part of a state-sponsored, systematic program
3 of genocide and other actions of persecution, discrimination,
4 violence, or other human rights violations committed by the
5 Nazis and Nazi collaborators against those persons.

6 Section 10. Composition of the Commission.

7 (a) The Commission is composed of 18 members as follows:

8 (1) 15 public members appointed by the Governor; and

9 (2) 3 ex officio members as follows:

10 (A) the State Superintendent of Education;

11 (B) the Executive Director of the Board of Higher
12 Education; and

13 (C) the Director of Veterans' Affairs.

14 (b) The President and Minority Leader of the Senate shall
15 each designate a member of the Senate and the Speaker and
16 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives shall each
17 designate a member of the House to advise the Commission.

18 Section 15. Public members; eligibility; appointment;
19 vacancy.

20 (a) A person appointed as a public member of the Commission
21 must be a resident of this State.

22 (b) Public members of the Commission must include:

23 (1) persons who have served prominently as leaders of
24 or spokespersons for public or private organizations that

1 serve members of religious, ethnic, national heritage, or
2 social groups that were subjected to the Holocaust or other
3 genocides;

4 (2) persons who have significant professional
5 experience in the field of Holocaust or genocide education;

6 (3) persons who represent liberators of Holocaust or
7 other genocide victims; and

8 (4) persons who have demonstrated a significant,
9 particular interest in Holocaust or genocide education.

10 (c) Appointments of public members to the Commission shall
11 be made:

12 (1) without regard to the race, color, disability, sex,
13 religion, age, or national origin of an appointee; and

14 (2) so that each geographic area of this State is
15 represented on the Commission.

16 (d) The original appointing authority shall fill any
17 vacancy in an appointed position on the Commission for the
18 unexpired portion of the term.

19 Section 20. Ex officio members; eligibility; designation
20 of representative.

21 (a) An ex officio member of the Commission vacates the
22 person's position on the Commission if the person ceases to
23 hold the position that qualifies the person for service on the
24 Commission.

25 (b) An ex officio member may designate a representative to

1 serve on the Commission in the member's absence. A
2 representative designated under this subsection must be an
3 officer or employee of the State agency that employs the ex
4 officio member.

5 Section 25. Removal of a public member.

6 (a) It is a ground for removal of a public member from the
7 Commission if the member:

8 (1) is ineligible for public membership under Section
9 15(a);

10 (2) cannot because of illness or disability discharge
11 the member's duties for a substantial part of the term for
12 which the member is appointed; or

13 (3) is absent from more than 3 consecutive regularly
14 scheduled Commission meetings that the member is eligible
15 to attend during a calendar year unless the absence is
16 excused by majority vote of the Commission.

17 (b) The validity of an action of the Commission is not
18 affected by the fact that it is taken when a ground for removal
19 of a Commission member exists.

20 (c) If a member of the Commission has knowledge that a
21 potential ground for removal exists, the member shall notify
22 the presiding officer of the Commission of the potential
23 ground. The presiding officer shall then notify the Governor
24 and the Attorney General that a potential ground for removal
25 exists.

1 Section 30. Term of public member.

2 (a) A public member of the Commission serves a term of 4
3 years, except that the terms of the initial members shall
4 expire on February 1, 2015.

5 (b) A public member is eligible for reappointment to
6 another term or part of a term.

7 (c) A public member may not serve more than 2 consecutive
8 terms. For purposes of this prohibition, a member is considered
9 to have served a term only if the member has served more than
10 half of the term.

11 Section 35. Officers; subcommittees.

12 (a) The Governor shall designate a public member of the
13 Commission as presiding officer to serve in that capacity at
14 the pleasure of the Governor.

15 (b) The presiding officer of the Commission may appoint a
16 subcommittee for any purpose consistent with the duties of the
17 Commission under this Act.

18 Section 40. Compensation; expenses.

19 (a) A public member of the Commission is not entitled to
20 compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for the travel
21 expenses incurred by the member while transacting Commission
22 business, as provided in Section 50.

23 (b) An ex officio member's service on the Commission is an

1 additional duty of the underlying position that qualifies the
2 member for service on the Commission. The entitlement of an ex
3 officio member to compensation or to reimbursement for travel
4 expenses incurred while transacting Commission business is
5 governed by the law that applies to the member's service in
6 that underlying position, and any payment to the member for
7 either purpose must be made from an appropriation that may be
8 used for the purpose and is available to the State agency that
9 the member serves in that underlying position.

10 Section 45. Meetings; quorum; voting; public access.

11 (a) The Commission shall meet at least quarterly at the
12 times and places in this State that the Commission designates.

13 (b) Seven voting members of the Commission constitute a
14 quorum for transacting Commission business.

15 (c) An ex officio member of the Commission may not vote on
16 Commission business.

17 (d) The Commission shall develop and implement policies
18 that provide the public with a reasonable opportunity to appear
19 before the Commission and speak on any issue under the
20 jurisdiction of the Commission.

21 Section 55. General powers and duties of the Commission.

22 (a) The Commission shall:

23 (1) provide advice and assistance to public and private
24 elementary and secondary schools and institutions of

1 higher education in this State regarding implementation of
2 Holocaust and genocide courses of study and awareness
3 programs;

4 (2) meet with appropriate representatives of public
5 and private organizations, including service
6 organizations, to provide information on and to assist in
7 planning, coordinating, or modifying Holocaust and
8 genocide courses of study and awareness programs;

9 (3) determine which, if any, existing Holocaust or
10 other genocide memorials, exhibits, or other resources
11 could be included in or used to support Holocaust and
12 genocide courses of study and awareness programs;

13 (4) compile a list of volunteers, such as Holocaust or
14 other genocide survivors, liberators of concentration
15 camps, scholars, and members of the clergy, who have agreed
16 to share, in classrooms, seminars, exhibits, or workshops,
17 their verifiable knowledge and experiences regarding the
18 Holocaust or other genocide;

19 (5) coordinate events in this State memorializing the
20 Holocaust and other genocides on January 27, International
21 Holocaust Remembrance Day, on the Days of Remembrance
22 established by the United States Congress, or on any other
23 day designated by the Commission for that purpose; and

24 (6) solicit volunteers to participate in commemorative
25 events designed to enhance public awareness of the
26 continuing significance of the Holocaust and other

1 genocides.

2 (b) In implementing subsection (a)(3), the Commission may
3 contact and cooperate with:

4 (1) existing public or private Holocaust or other
5 genocide resource organizations, including the United
6 States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Illinois
7 Holocaust Museum and Education Center;

8 (2) other museums, centers, and organizations based in
9 this State;

10 (3) the State Board of Education and the Board of
11 Higher Education; and

12 (4) members of the United States Congress and of the
13 Illinois General Assembly.

14 (c) The Commission shall adopt rules as necessary for its
15 own procedures.

16 (d) The Commission may appoint advisory committees to
17 advise the Commission.

18 Section 60. Funding.

19 (a) The Commission may accept monetary gifts and grants
20 from any public or private source, to be held in a
21 non-appropriated trust fund by the State Treasurer and expended
22 solely for the use of the Commission in performing the
23 Commission's powers and duties under this Act. The Commission
24 may also accept in-kind gifts.

25 (b) The Department of Natural Resources may cooperate with

1 and advise the Commission in regards to staffing and may
2 support functions and activities of the Commission from moneys
3 available to the Department that may be used for that purpose.
4 The General Assembly may also specifically appropriate money to
5 the Department to provide staff and to otherwise support
6 functions and activities of the Illinois Holocaust and Genocide
7 Commission.

8 Section 95. Repeal. This Act is repealed on January 1,
9 2021.