

AN ACT concerning government.

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

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

Section 5. Definitions. In this Act:

"Commission" means the Illinois Holocaust and Genocide Commission.

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

- (1) killing members of the group;
- (2) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- (3) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about the group's physical destruction in whole or in part;
- (4) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; or
- (5) forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

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

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

Section 10. Composition of the Commission.

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

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

(2) 3 ex officio members as follows:

(A) the State Superintendent of Education;

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

(C) the Director of Veterans' Affairs.

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

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

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

(b) Public members of the Commission must include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 25. Removal of a public member.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 30. Term of public member.

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

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

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

Section 35. Officers; subcommittees.

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

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

Section 40. Compensation; expenses.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 55. General powers and duties of the Commission.

(a) The Commission shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

genocides.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 60. Funding.

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

(b) The Department of Natural Resources may cooperate with

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

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