

As Reported by the Senate Finance Committee

133rd General Assembly

Regular Session

2019-2020

Am. S. B. No. 372

Senator Rulli

**Cosponsors: Senators Obhof, Yuko, Antonio, Blessing, Brenner, Craig, Fedor,
Gavarone, Hottinger, Kunze, Maharath, O'Brien, Peterson, Hackett, Schaffer,
Sykes, Williams**

A BILL

To enact sections 197.01, 197.03, 197.04, 197.05, 1
197.06, 197.07, 197.08, 197.11, 197.12, and 2
197.13 of the Revised Code to create the 3
Holocaust and Genocide Memorial and Education 4
Commission. 5

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 197.01, 197.03, 197.04, 197.05, 6
197.06, 197.07, 197.08, 197.11, 197.12, and 197.13 of the 7
Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 8

Sec. 197.01. As used in this chapter: 9

(A) "Genocide" means an internationally-recognized crime 10
where the following acts are committed against a national, 11
ethnic, racial, or religious group's members with the intent to 12
destroy, in whole or in part, the group: 13

(1) Killing; 14

(2) Causing serious bodily or mental harm; 15

(3) Deliberately inflicting life conditions calculated to 16

bring about physical destruction, in whole or in part; 17

(4) Imposing measures intended to prevent births; 18

(5) Forcibly transferring a group's children to another 19
group. 20

(B) "Holocaust" means the systematic, state-sponsored 21
persecution and murder of approximately six million Jews by the 22
Nazi regime and its allies and collaborators. Other victims, 23
including the Roma and Sinti, also known as Gypsies, 24
homosexuals, Poles, people with disabilities, and Jehovah's 25
Witnesses, were also persecuted and murdered by the Nazi regime. 26

Sec. 197.03. There is hereby created the Holocaust and 27
genocide memorial and education commission. 28

Sec. 197.04. (A) The Holocaust and genocide memorial and 29
education commission shall consist of fifteen members as 30
follows: 31

(1) Two members shall be members of the house of 32
representatives appointed by the governor after consultation 33
with the speaker of the house of representatives, with one 34
member being from the majority party and one member being from 35
the minority party, to serve a term of the remainder of the 36
general assembly during which the representative is appointed; 37

(2) Two members shall be members of the senate appointed 38
by the governor after consultation with the president of the 39
senate, with one member being from the majority party and one 40
member being from the minority party, to serve a term of the 41
remainder of the general assembly during which the senator is 42
appointed; 43

(3) Three nonvoting ex officio members, to serve until the 44

<u>ex officio member ceases to hold the applicable office:</u>	45
<u>(a) The superintendent of public instruction;</u>	46
<u>(b) The chancellor of higher education;</u>	47
<u>(c) The director of veterans services.</u>	48
<u>(4) Eight members shall be appointed by the governor with</u>	49
<u>the advice and consent of the senate, to serve a term of three</u>	50
<u>years, as follows:</u>	51
<u>(a) At least three members shall be involved in Holocaust</u>	52
<u>and genocide memorial and education or have a personal</u>	53
<u>connection or experience with the Holocaust or genocide;</u>	54
<u>(b) At least three members shall have expertise regarding</u>	55
<u>the Holocaust and investigation, analysis, or research regarding</u>	56
<u>genocide.</u>	57
<u>(B) Vacancies shall be filled in the manner provided under</u>	58
<u>division (A) of this section. Any member appointed to fill a</u>	59
<u>vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which</u>	60
<u>the member's predecessor was appointed shall hold office for the</u>	61
<u>remainder of that term. Any appointed member shall continue in</u>	62
<u>office subsequent to the expiration of that member's term until</u>	63
<u>the member's successor takes office or until a period of sixty</u>	64
<u>days has elapsed, whichever occurs first.</u>	65
<u>Sec. 197.05. (A) The Holocaust and genocide memorial and</u>	66
<u>education commission shall meet not less than six times during a</u>	67
<u>calendar year.</u>	68
<u>(B) On the first meeting, the commission shall elect a</u>	69
<u>chairperson, vice-chairperson, and other officers from the</u>	70
<u>voting members.</u>	71

(C) The commission shall adopt rules governing the 72
commission. 73

Sec. 197.06. Eight voting members of the Holocaust and 74
genocide memorial and education commission constitute a quorum 75
of the commission. No action of the commission shall be taken 76
without the affirmative vote of eight voting members. 77

Sec. 197.07. Members of the Holocaust and genocide 78
memorial and education commission shall serve without 79
compensation, but shall be reimbursed for expenses actually and 80
necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties. 81

Sec. 197.08. The Holocaust and genocide memorial and 82
education commission shall do the following: 83

(A) Gather and disseminate Holocaust and genocide 84
information throughout this state; 85

(B) Take inventory of current statewide Holocaust and 86
genocide memorial and education programs and initiatives, and 87
propose programming to fill program and initiative gaps; 88

(C) Secure appropriate recognition of the accomplishments 89
and contributions of Holocaust and genocide survivors, 90
liberators, and Ohioans active in rescue and resettlement 91
efforts, and make their stories accessible for educational 92
purposes; 93

(D) Promote public awareness of issues relating to 94
Holocaust and genocide memorial and education through public 95
education programs; 96

(E) Partner with public and private organizations that 97
serve Holocaust and genocide survivors, veterans, and 98
liberators, including the Nancy and David Wolf Holocaust and 99

humanity center, the national veterans memorial and museum, the 100
Maltz museum of Jewish heritage, the national museum of the 101
United States air force, and local, state, national, or 102
international historical societies, museums, and memorials for 103
educational purposes; 104

(F) Advise and educate the governor, general assembly, and 105
state departments and agencies regarding the nature, magnitude, 106
and priorities of Holocaust and genocide memorial and education, 107
and develop policies and programs to address those needs; 108

(G) Seek opportunities to provide resources for schools to 109
teach effectively about the Holocaust and genocide; 110

(H) Review and approve grants that are administered or 111
subcontracted by the commission or the Holocaust and genocide 112
memorial and education office established under section 197.11 113
of the Revised Code; 114

(I) Coordinate with and provide information regarding 115
available state services to meet the needs of Holocaust and 116
genocide survivors, liberators, educators, students, and public 117
safety and law enforcement; 118

(J) Review and approve the annual report prepared by the 119
office under section 197.13 of the Revised Code. 120

Sec. 197.11. There is hereby created the Holocaust and 121
genocide memorial and education office to serve the Holocaust 122
and genocide memorial and education commission. 123

Sec. 197.12. The director of the Holocaust and genocide 124
memorial and education office shall be appointed by, and serve 125
at the pleasure of, the Holocaust and genocide memorial and 126
education commission. The director shall, with the commission's 127
approval, appoint employees as necessary to carry out the duties 128

of the office. The employees shall serve at the director's 129
pleasure. 130

Sec. 197.13. The Holocaust and genocide memorial and 131
education office shall do the following: 132

(A) Advise and provide information to the Holocaust and 133
genocide memorial and education commission on statewide programs 134
and new opportunities to further Holocaust and genocide memorial 135
and education; 136

(B) Serve as a clearinghouse to review, comment on, and 137
propose initiatives submitted to the office that meet Holocaust 138
and genocide memorial and education needs; 139

(C) Apply for and accept grants and gifts from public and 140
private sources to be administered by the office or 141
subcontracted to local public or nonprofit agencies that shall 142
use the grants and gifts for the purpose intended; 143

(D) Monitor and evaluate all programs subcontracted to 144
local public or nonprofit agencies and ensure that any grants or 145
gifts are being used for the purpose intended; 146

(E) Endeavor to ensure that Holocaust and genocide 147
survivors, liberators, educators, and others involved in 148
Holocaust and genocide education and memorial have access to 149
decision-making bodies in local, state, national, and 150
international departments, agencies, and genocide education and 151
memorial organizations; 152

(F) (1) Establish advisory committees for special subjects, 153
as needed, to facilitate and maximize community participation 154
and subject matter expertise in the operation of the commission; 155

(2) Advisory committees shall be comprised of members 156

<u>representing community organizations, charitable institutions,</u>	157
<u>elementary and secondary schools, higher education institutions,</u>	158
<u>faith-based organizations, public officials, and other persons</u>	159
<u>as determined by the office.</u>	160
<u>(G) Establish relationships with local and state</u>	161
<u>governments, federal officials, nonprofit organizations, and the</u>	162
<u>private sector to promote and ensure the highest standards of</u>	163
<u>Holocaust and genocide memorial and education;</u>	164
<u>(H) Submit a written annual report of the office's</u>	165
<u>activities, accomplishments, and recommendations to the</u>	166
<u>commission.</u>	167