

**As Passed by the Senate**

**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, Burke, Coley, Dolan, Eklund, Hoagland, Huffman, M., Huffman, S., Johnson, Manning, McColley, Roegner, Schuring, Thomas, Wilson**

**A BILL**

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

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

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

**Sec. 197.01. As used in this chapter:**

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

(1) Killing;

(2) Causing serious bodily or mental harm;

(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  
ex officio member ceases to hold the applicable office: 45

(a) The superintendent of public instruction; 46

(b) The chancellor of higher education; 47

(c) The director of veterans services. 48

(4) Eight members shall be appointed by the governor with 49  
the advice and consent of the senate, to serve a term of three 50  
years, as follows: 51

(a) At least three members shall be involved in Holocaust 52  
and genocide memorial and education or have a personal 53  
connection or experience with the Holocaust or genocide; 54

(b) At least three members shall have expertise regarding 55  
the Holocaust and investigation, analysis, or research regarding 56  
genocide. 57

(B) Vacancies shall be filled in the manner provided under 58  
division (A) of this section. Any member appointed to fill a 59  
vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which 60  
the member's predecessor was appointed shall hold office for the 61  
remainder of that term. Any appointed member shall continue in 62  
office subsequent to the expiration of that member's term until 63  
the member's successor takes office or until a period of sixty 64  
days has elapsed, whichever occurs first. 65

**Sec. 197.05.** (A) The Holocaust and genocide memorial and 66  
education commission shall meet not less than six times during a 67  
calendar year. 68

(B) On the first meeting, the commission shall elect a 69  
chairperson, vice-chairperson, and other officers from the 70  
voting members. 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

representing community organizations, charitable institutions, 157  
elementary and secondary schools, higher education institutions, 158  
faith-based organizations, public officials, and other persons 159  
as determined by the office. 160

(G) Establish relationships with local and state 161  
governments, federal officials, nonprofit organizations, and the 162  
private sector to promote and ensure the highest standards of 163  
Holocaust and genocide memorial and education; 164

(H) Submit a written annual report of the office's 165  
activities, accomplishments, and recommendations to the 166  
commission. 167