

January 1, 2021

The Honorable Christopher Sununu Senate President Chuck Morse Governor of New Hampshire New Hampshire State Senate

State House, Room 208 107 North Main Street

Concord, NH 03301 State House, Room 302 Concord, NH 03301

Acting House Speaker Sherman Packard

New Hampshire House of Representatives

107 North Main Street

State House, Room 311

Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Sununu, Senate President Morse, and Acting House Speaker Packard,

As required by, HB 1135, Chapter 193-E:2-f, Laws of 2020 , Commission on Holocaust and Genocide Education, please find attached the Commission’s preliminary report.

If you should have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Senator Jay Kahn, Chair

Commission on Holocaust and Genocide Education

Senate District 10

New Hampshire State Senate

603-271-3092

cc: Senator Ruth Ward, Chair, Senate Education

Representative Rick Ladd, Chair, House Education

Tammy L. Wright, Senate Clerk

Paul C. Smith, Clerk of the House

Michael York, State Librarian

**Commission on Holocaust and Genocide Education**

**Preliminary Report**

December 31, 2020

Submitted by:

Senator Jay Kahn, *Chairperson*

**Legislation**

On July 28, 2020, Governor Sununu signed into law HB 1135, a bill including Holocaust and genocide studies legislation and establishing a Commission on Holocaust and Genocide Education (see Appendix A for Section 17 establishing the Commission). This statute requires the Commission to prepare a preliminary report on or before January 1, 2020 to be submitted to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the chairpersons of the senate and house committees with jurisdiction over education, the senate clerk, the house clerk, the state board of education, the governor, and the state library.

**Commission’s Organization**

The fifteen named members of the Commission first met on October 27, 2020. The first order of business was election of a chairperson, Sen. Jay Kahn, a vice-chairperson, Kathy Preston, and a clerk, Dina Michael Chaitowitz.

From the outset, the Commission has met via the state legislative Zoom platform, following the script provided by legislative leadership regarding the Right to Know statute and allowing the public to view the meeting via You Tube. The public can search for meeting recordings at <https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=nh+commission+on+holocaust+and+genocide+commission+>

The Commission has organized its work into three work groups:

* Policies – specific to the process of preparing and adopting Education Rules necessary for implementing Holocaust and genocide education in NH schools;
* Best Practices – identifying best practices by grade level and available instructional resources and professional development opportunities for teachers and schools offering Holocaust and genocide education;
* Implementation - identify in-service education opportunities for educators and promote, within the schools and the general population of the state, implementation of Holocaust and genocide education.

Together, the work of these work groups covers the six areas within the statutory charge to the Commission. Each work group is meeting monthly to advance topics that can be shared with the full Commission at its monthly meetings.

As a means of connecting the Commission with related organizations, Commission meetings have included presentations by Dr. Nate Greene of the Department of Education and Ahni Malachi, Director of the NH Human Rights Commission.

As intended by the Commission’s membership, the diverse backgrounds represented in the Commission offer both expertise and experience that the Commission can draw upon to further its work.

**Schedule**

The Commission is aiming to:

* Present proposed Education Rules to the Board of Education by March of 2021.
* Have guidance for schools and NH communities to act upon the Governor’s proclamation of New Hampshire Genocide Awareness Month in April 2021. This is the month that New Hampshire cities and towns throughout the state are urged to observe and commemorate the victims of genocides and educate the public about the importance of preventing intolerance, bigotry, antisemitism, and national, ethnic, racial, and religious hatred and genocide against any group of people.
* Inform schools and NH communities of national and international dates of commemoration of victims of genocides that occur over the calendar year, to help link education and community awareness to cultures that have experienced intolerance, bigotry, antisemitism, and national, ethnic, racial, and religious hatred and genocide.

The Commission is also charged with monitoring the implementation of Holocaust and genocide education in NH schools and to serve as a resource throughout its existence.

As designated in the statute, 193-E:2-f, the Commission will conclude its work with a final report by November 1, 2024.

**Attachments:**

Appendix A - Commission on Holocaust and Genocide Education – Statutory Charge

Appendix B - Commission on Holocaust and Genocide Education Contact List

**Appendix A**

**Commission on Holocaust and Genocide Education – Statutory Charge**

17 New Section; **Commission on Holocaust and Genocide Education**. Amend RSA 193-E by inserting after section 2-e the following new section:

193-E:2-f Commission on Holocaust and Genocide Education.

I. There is established a commission to study best practices for teaching students how intolerance, bigotry, antisemitism, and national, ethnic, racial, or religious hatred and discrimination have evolved in the past, and can evolve into mass violence and genocide, such as the Holocaust.

II. The members of the commission shall be as follows:

(a) One member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

(b) Two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

(c) The commissioner of education, or designee.

(d) One high school teacher, appointed by the governor.

(e) One middle school teacher, appointed by the governor.

(f) One school administrator, appointed by the New Hampshire School Administrators Association.

(g) One school curriculum coordinator, appointed by NEA-NH.

(h) The Roman Catholic bishop of Manchester, or designee.

(i) A representative of the New Hampshire Council of Churches, appointed by the council.

(j) A representative of the Keene state college Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, appointed by the college president.

(k) Two members appointed by the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire, one of whom shall be a religious leader.

(l) Two survivors or direct descendants of a survivor of either the Holocaust or another genocide, one appointed by the president of the senate and one appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

(m) A representative appointed by the Anti-Defamation League, New England region. III. The commission shall:

(a) Recommend model school district policies for Holocaust and genocide education.

(b) Recommend to the state board of education rules for fulfilling the Holocaust and genocide education requirement.

(c) Identify best practices for teaching Holocaust and genocide education and the appropriate number of hours of instruction at multiple grade levels.

(d) Identify existing teaching materials and curriculum as well as strategies and content for providing and enhancing genocide education to students.

(e) Identify in-service education opportunities for educators.

(f) Promote, within the schools and the general population of the state, implementation of Holocaust and genocide education.

IV. Legislative members of the commission shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to the duties of the commission.

V. The members of the commission shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The first meeting of the commission shall be called by the senate member. The first meeting of the commission shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Eight members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

VI. Report. The commission shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the chairpersons of the senate and house committees with jurisdiction over education, the senate clerk, the house clerk, the state board of education, the governor, and the state library. A preliminary report shall be submitted on or before January 1, 2021. An annual report shall be submitted on or before November 1, 2021 and each year thereafter. The commission shall monitor the implementation by grade, curriculum, and hours of instruction. A final report shall be submitted on or before November 1, 2024.

18 Repeal. RSA 193-E:2-f, relative to the commission on genocide education, is repealed. 19 Effective Date.

I. Sections 1-16 of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage. II. Section 18 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2024.  
III. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

**Appendix B**

**COMMISSION ON HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE EDUCATION**

**CONTACT LIST**

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| **Senator Jay Kahn - chairperson**  603-352-2903  603-271-3077 (work)  kahnjay03@gmail.com | **Representative Arthur Ellison**  603-224-7425  highland242@gmail.com |
| **Representative Dan Wolf**  603-763-5176  603-526-6997 (work)  dan@hodan.com | **Dr. James Waller**  603-358-2011  jwaller@keene.edu |
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| **Rabbi Jon Spira-Savett**  603-809-9736  rabbijon@tbanashua.org | **Dina Michael Chaitowitz - clerk**  603-235-0258  dmichaelchaitowitz@gmail.com |
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