

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

BILL #: HB 251	COMPANION BILL: SB 356 (Berman)
TITLE: Holocaust Remembrance Day	LINKED BILLS: None
SPONSOR(S): Tendrich, Harris	RELATED BILLS: None
FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION: 114 Y's 0 N's	GOVERNOR'S ACTION: Approved

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The bill requires the Governor to proclaim January 27 of each year to be "Holocaust Remembrance Day." This day may be observed in public schools, at the State Capitol, and elsewhere as the Governor may designate. Under the bill, schools may include instruction about the Holocaust, anti-Semitism, and the contributions of the Jewish community.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

None

JUMP TO	SUMMARY	ANALYSIS	RELEVANT INFORMATION
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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

HB 251 passed as [SB 356](#).

The bill requires the Governor to proclaim January 27 of each year to be "[Holocaust](#) Remembrance Day." This day may be observed in public schools and by public exercise at the State Capitol and elsewhere as the Governor may designate. The bill specifies that if January 27 falls on a day that is not a school day, Holocaust Remembrance Day may be observed in the schools on the following school day or on such other school day as designated by the local district school board. Schools may provide [instruction about the Holocaust](#), anti-Semitism, and positive contributions of the Jewish community to humanity. (Section [1](#)).

The bill was approved by the Governor on May 23, 2025, ch. 2025-86, L.O.F., and will become effective on July 1, 2025. (Section [2](#)).

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

Legal Holidays and Observances

Chapter [683, F.S.](#) provides designations for legal holidays and special observances. Recognition of a legal holiday or special observance may apply statewide or may be limited to a particular region. For example, "Gasparilla Day"¹ is a legal holiday observed only in Hillsborough County, while "Bill of Rights Day,"² if issued by the Governor, applies throughout the state.

Depending on the holiday or special observance, certain actions may be required to be performed for the commemoration or observance of the date, day, or month. For example, the Governor may annually issue a proclamation designating April 2 as "Florida State Day" and may designate the week of March 27 to April 2 as

¹ Section [683.08, F.S.](#)

² Section [683.25, F.S.](#)

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“Pascua Florida Week.”³ Florida law recognizes the month of September as “American Founders’ Month,” urging all civic, fraternal, and religious organizations and public and private educational institutions to recognize this occasion through appropriate programs and celebrations.⁴ The last full week of classes in September is “Celebrate Freedom Week,” in which public schools are required to include at least three hours of grade-appropriate instruction related to the meaning and importance of the Declaration of Independence in social studies classes.⁵

There are 22 statewide legal holidays established in law⁶ and 40 special observances and local holidays.⁷ The state recognizes nine paid holidays that are observed by all state branches and agencies.⁸

[The Holocaust](#)

The Holocaust (1933-1945) was the systematic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million European Jews and others by Nazi Germany. In the beginning of Nazi rule, dictator Adolf Hitler used the government to target and exclude Jews from German society. Among other antisemitic measures, the Nazi German regime enacted discriminatory laws and organized violence targeting Germany’s Jews.⁹

The Nazi persecution of Jews became radicalized with the culminated plan known as the “Final Solution to the Jewish Question.” The “Final Solution” came to fruition during World War II, with mass killing centers in concentration camps. About six million Jews and some five million others, targeted for racial, political, ideological and behavioral reasons, died in the Holocaust, more than one million of those who perished were children.¹⁰

[Commemoration of the Holocaust](#)

The United Nations (UN) General Assembly designated January 27, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. On this annual day of commemoration, the UN urges every member state to honor the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and millions of other victims of Nazism and to develop education programs to help prevent future genocides.¹¹

[Holocaust Education in Florida](#)

Since 1994, schools in Florida have been required to incorporate lessons about the holocaust as part of public school instruction.¹² In 2020, the Legislature directed the Florida Department of Education (DOE) to develop standards for Holocaust Education.¹³ The DOE worked closely with the Commissioner of Education’s Task Force on Holocaust Education and Florida teachers to develop content-rich and developmentally appropriate Holocaust Education standards. In the process, DOE received and considered comments from state and nationally recognized Holocaust educational organizations, Florida educators, school administrators, representatives of the Florida College System and state universities, business and industry leaders, and the public.¹⁴

The required instruction on the Holocaust (1933-1945) must include the history of the systematic, planned annihilation of European Jews and other groups by Nazi Germany, a watershed event in the history of humanity, and be taught in a manner that leads to an investigation of human behavior, an understanding of the ramifications

³ Section [683.06, F.S.](#)

⁴ Section [683.1455, F.S.](#)

⁵ Section [1003.421, F.S.](#)

⁶ Section [683.01, F.S.](#)

⁷ See Sections [683.04–683.336, F.S.](#)

⁸ Section [110.117\(1\), F.S.](#) Paid state holidays include: New Year’s Day, the Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans’ Day, Thanksgiving Day, the Friday after Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day. *Id.*

⁹ United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, *Introduction to the Holocaust*, <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/introduction-to-the-holocaust> (last visited May 1, 2025).

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/7. See also, United Nations, *Outreach Programme on the Holocaust*, <https://www.un.org/en/holocaustremembrance/observance/> (last visited May 1, 2025).

¹² See Florida Department of Education, *Commissioner of Education’s Task Force on Holocaust Education*, <https://www.fldoe.org/holocausteducation/#:~:text=Required%20Instruction,Holocaust%20education%20in%20Florida%20schools>. (last visited May 1, 2025); see also s. [1003.42\(2\)\(g\), F.S.](#)

¹³ Section [1003.42\(2\)\(g\), F.S.](#)

¹⁴ Florida Department of Education, *Next Generation Sunshine Standards – Social Studies*, 2021, available at <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/18736/urlt/SR-SocialStudies.pdf>.

of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping, and an examination of what it means to be a responsible and respectful person, for the purposes of encouraging tolerance of diversity in a pluralistic society and for nurturing and protecting democratic values and institutions, including the policy, definition, and historical and current examples of anti-Semitism.¹⁵

In July 2021, the State Board of Education (SBE) adopted the updated State Standards for Social Studies, incorporating revised civics and government standards¹⁶ and new standards for grades 5-12 for Holocaust education for which instruction began in 2023-2024.¹⁷

Each school district must annually certify and provide evidence to the DOE that they have met the instructional requirements on Holocaust education. In addition, the DOE may contract with any state or nationally recognized Holocaust educational organizations to develop training for instructional personnel and grade-appropriate classroom resources to support the developed curriculum.¹⁸

Florida recognizes the second week in November as Holocaust Education Week, which coincides with the anniversary of Kristallnacht, November 9-10, 1938. Kristallnacht is widely recognized as a precipitating event that led to the Holocaust.¹⁹ The DOE has created a portal dedicated to Holocaust Education Week, which offers commemoration resources, educational programs, and materials concerning the Holocaust, for school districts, teachers, parents, and the general public.²⁰

¹⁵ Section [1003.42\(2\)\(g\), F.S.](#)
¹⁶ Chapter 2019-150, s.1, Laws of Fla.
¹⁷ Florida Department of Education, *Next Generation Sunshine State Standards – Social Studies, 2021*, available at <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/19975/urlt/5-3.pdf>.
¹⁸ Section [1003.42\(2\)\(g\)1., F.S.](#)
¹⁹ *Id.*
²⁰ Florida Department of Education, *Holocaust Education Week*, <https://www.fldoe.org/holocausteducation/holo-ed-week.stml> (last visited May 1, 2025).