

SB 664 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 5/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires school districts to provide instruction about the Holocaust and genocide. Designates specific learning outcomes. Directs Oregon Department of Education to provide technical assistance to school districts on the implementation of curriculum. Requires instruction begin in the 2020-2021 school year. Directs the State Board of Education to adopt content standards for Holocaust and genocide studies in consultation with local Holocaust education organizations. Requires school districts to provide instruction based on the adopted standards starting on September 1, 2025.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

School districts must provide instructional programs that include content standards adopted by the State Board of Education. In May 2018, the Oregon State Board of Education adopted new content standards for social studies that require high school students to study the oppression of ethnic and religious groups. Social studies standard HS.65 requires students to "identify and analyze the nature of systemic oppression on ethnic and religious groups, as well as other traditionally marginalized groups, in the pursuit of justice and equality in Oregon, the United States and the world." The social studies standards do not include specific references to the Holocaust or genocide.