House File 2544 - Reprinted

HOUSE FILE 2544 BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2330)

(As Amended and Passed by the House February 28, 2024)

A BILL FOR

1	An	Act relating to education, including by modifying provisions
2		related to the social studies instruction provided to
3		students enrolled in grades one through twelve and the
4		educational programs provided by the institutions of higher
5		education under the control of the state board of regents,
6		and requiring education related to the holocaust for
7		students and teachers in school districts.
8	BE	IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

Section 1. Section 256.11, subsections 3 and 4, Code 2024, 2 are amended to read as follows:

3. a. The following areas shall be taught in grades 3 4 one through six: English-language arts, social studies, 5 mathematics, science, health, physical education, traffic 6 safety, music, visual art, and, subject to section 279.80, 7 age-appropriate and research-based human growth and 8 development. Computer science instruction incorporating 9 the standards established under section 256.7, subsection 10 26, paragraph "a", subparagraph (4), shall be offered in 11 at least one grade level commencing with the school year 12 beginning July 1, 2023. The health curriculum shall include 13 the characteristics of communicable diseases. The state board 14 as part of accreditation standards shall adopt curriculum 15 definitions for implementing the elementary program. 16 b. The social studies curriculum shall include instruction 17 related to all of the following: 18 (1) The workings of the federal, state, and local levels of 19 government. 20 (2) The rights and responsibilities of citizens of the 21 United States and the state of Iowa. 22 (3) The history of the secular and religious ideals and 23 institutions of liberty, including political, religious, 24 economic, social, and cultural liberty, in western 25 civilization, the United States, and the state of Iowa, which 26 emphasizes the good, worthwhile, and best achievements of these 27 ideals and institutions of liberty. (4) Exemplary figures in western civilization, the United 28 29 States, and the state of Iowa who have fought to secure 30 liberty. 31 (5) The cultural heritage of western civilization, the 32 United States, and the state of Iowa. 33 (6) The geography of the United States and the state of 34 Iowa. (7) The history and meaning of the United States flag and 35

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1 the national anthem.
2 (8) Admirable Amer
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(8) Admirable Americans, including Benjamin Franklin, 3 George Washington, Frederick Douglass, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, 4 and Abraham Lincoln. 5 c. During grades five and six, the instruction provided as 6 part of the social studies curriculum shall incorporate the 7 study of documents that are important to the history of the 8 United States, including all of the following: 9 (1) The Mayflower compact. (2) Common Sense, written by Thomas Paine. 10 (3) The Declaration of Independence. 11 12 (4) The Articles of Confederation. 13 (5) The Pennsylvania Act for the gradual abolition of 14 slavery. 15 (6) The Virginia statute for religious freedom. 16 (7) The northwest ordinance. (8) The Constitution of the United States. 17 18 (9) The federalist papers, including federalist number ten 19 and federalist number fifty-one. 20 (10) A transcript of George Washington's farewell address. (11) Relevant excerpts from Democracy in America written by 21 22 Alexis de Tocqueville. 23 (12) A transcript of the first debate between Abraham 24 Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas. 25 (13) The Emancipation Proclamation. 26 (14) The writings of the founding fathers. 27 4. *a.* The following shall be taught in grades seven and 28 eight: English-language arts; social studies; mathematics; 29 science; health; age-appropriate and research-based human 30 growth and development; career exploration and development; 31 physical education; music; and visual art. Computer science 32 instruction incorporating the standards established under 33 section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph a'', subparagraph (4), 34 shall be offered in at least one grade level commencing with 35 the school year beginning July 1, 2023. Career exploration

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1 and development shall be designed so that students are 2 appropriately prepared to create an individual career 3 and academic plan pursuant to section 279.61, incorporate 4 foundational career and technical education concepts aligned 5 with the six career and technical education service areas as 6 defined in subsection 5, paragraph "h", incorporate relevant 7 twenty-first century skills to facilitate career readiness, 8 and introduce students to career opportunities within the 9 local community and across this state. The health curriculum 10 shall include age-appropriate and research-based information ll regarding the characteristics of sexually transmitted diseases. 12 The state board as part of accreditation standards shall adopt 13 curriculum definitions for implementing the program in grades 14 seven and eight. However, this subsection shall not apply to 15 the teaching of career exploration and development in nonpublic 16 schools. 17 b. (1) The social studies curriculum shall require at 18 least one semester of instruction, or the trimester or quarter 19 equivalent, in each of the following areas: 20 (a) Civics, which shall include instruction related to all 21 of the following: 22 (i) The intellectual sources of the United States' founding 23 documents. 24 (ii) The political and military narrative of the causes and 25 progress of the American Revolution. (iii) The United States' founding documents and the 26 27 original intent of such documents. (iv) The Constitution of the United States, with emphasis on 28 29 the Bill of Rights, and the Constitution of the State of Iowa. 30 (v) The basic principles of the United States' republican 31 form of government. 32 (vi) The historical development of the United States' 33 republican form of government. 34 (vii) The United States' republican form of government 35 compared with different forms of government including

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1 dictatorship, monarchy, oligarchy, theocracy, communism, and 2 autocracy. (viii) The structure, function, and processes of government 3 4 institutions at the federal, state, and local levels. 5 (ix) The civic virtues exemplified in the lives of famous 6 Americans. 7 (b) United States history, which shall include instruction related to all of the following: 8 9 (i) The study of and devotion to the United States' 10 exceptional and praiseworthy history. (ii) The basic political, diplomatic, and military 11 12 history of the United States, which shall include the period 13 of discovery, early colonies, the War of Independence, the 14 Civil War, the expansion of the United States to its present 15 boundaries, World War I, World War II, the Cold War, the civil 16 rights movement, and the period of time from the September 11 17 attacks to the present day, which shall incorporate the study 18 of primary source documents. 19 (iii) The basic history of business and technology in the 20 United States, which shall incorporate the study of primary 21 source documents. 22 (iv) The basic history of the religious and secular aspects 23 of the United States' common culture, which shall incorporate 24 the study of primary source documents. 25 (v) The concept that United States history shall be viewed 26 as factual, not as constructed, shall be viewed as knowable, 27 teachable, and testable, and shall be defined as the creation 28 of a new nation based largely on the universal principles 29 stated in the Declaration of Independence. (c) The history of western civilization, which shall 30 31 include instruction that constitutes an extended, coherent 32 account of western civilization, from Athens, Jerusalem, and 33 Rome to the present day, to understand the nature of the 34 nation's ideals and institutions of liberty, how such ideals 35 and institutions of liberty came into existence, and what

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1	actions the nation's forefathers took to preserve them.
2	(d) Iowa history, to be taught during grade eight, which
3	shall include instruction related to all of the following:
4	(i) The history of the founding of Iowa.
5	(ii) The history of famous Iowans and their involvement in
6	important events in history.
7	(iii) How Iowans have impacted government, policies,
8	issues, and procedures over the years.
9	(iv) The history of the state motto, bird, tree, and rock.
10	(e) Economics, to be taught during grade eight. The
11	economics instruction shall focus on the free enterprise system
12	and its benefits. The economics curriculum shall include
13	instruction related to the failures of economic systems of
14	communist regimes and the difference between capitalist and
15	communist economic systems.
16	(2) The social studies curriculum shall include instruction
17	related to admirable Americans, including Benjamin Franklin,
18	George Washington, Frederick Douglass, Elizabeth Cady Stanton,
19	and Abraham Lincoln.
20	(3) The instruction provided as part of the social studies
21	curriculum shall incorporate the study of documents that are
22	important to the history of the United States, including all
23	of the following:
24	(a) The Mayflower compact.
25	(b) Common Sense, written by Thomas Paine.
26	(c) The Declaration of Independence.
27	(d) The Articles of Confederation.
28	(e) The Pennsylvania Act for the gradual abolition of
29	slavery.
30	(f) The Virginia statute for religious freedom.
31	(g) The northwest ordinance.
32	(h) The Constitution of the United States.
33	(i) The federalist papers, including federalist number ten
34	and federalist number fifty-one.
35	(j) A transcript of George Washington's farewell address.

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1 (k) Relevant excerpts from Democracy in America written by 2 Alexis de Tocqueville. (1) A transcript of the first debate between Abraham Lincoln 3 4 and Stephen A. Douglas. 5 (m) The Emancipation Proclamation. 6 The writings of the founding fathers. (n) 7 Sec. 2. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph b, Code 8 2024, is amended to read as follows: 9 *b*. Five units of the social studies including instruction 10 in voting statutes and procedures, voter registration 11 requirements, the use of paper ballots and voting systems in 12 the election process, and the method of acquiring and casting 13 an absentee ballot. All students shall complete a minimum of 14 one-half unit of United States government, and one unit of 15 civics, two units of United States history, and one unit of 16 western civilization. The social studies curriculum shall not 17 include any advanced placement course that requires action 18 civics. The social studies curriculum shall incorporate the 19 study of documents that are important to the history of the 20 United States, including the Mayflower compact; Common Sense, 21 written by Thomas Paine; the Declaration of Independence; the 22 Articles of Confederation; the Pennsylvania Act for the gradual 23 abolition of slavery; the Virginia statute for religious 24 freedom; the northwest ordinance; the Constitution of the 25 United States; the federalist papers, including federalist 26 number ten and federalist number fifty-one; a transcript of 27 George Washington's farewell address; relevant excerpts from 28 Democracy in America written by Alexis de Tocqueville; a 29 transcript of the first debate between Abraham Lincoln and 30 Stephen A. Douglas; the Emancipation Proclamation; and the 31 writings of the founding fathers. 32 (1) The one-half unit of United States government shall 33 include the voting procedure as described in this lettered 34 paragraph and section 280.9A and other instruction related 35 to voting statutes and procedures, voter registration

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1 requirements, the use of paper ballots and voting systems in 2 the election process, and the method of acquiring and casting 3 an absentee ballot. The government instruction shall also 4 include a study of the Constitution of the United States 5 and the Bill of Rights contained in the Constitution and an 6 assessment of a student's knowledge of the Constitution and the 7 Bill of Rights. 8 (2) The one unit of civics shall include a culminating 9 civic literacy examination that was not developed by the 10 school district or accredited nonpublic school or the teacher ll providing the civics instruction. The examination shall 12 include an assessment of the student's knowledge of United 13 States government and United States history, shall provide a 14 means of assessing civics instruction in grades nine through 15 twelve, and shall provide information that colleges and 16 universities may use to determine if incoming students possess 17 sufficient civic literacy. The one unit of civics shall not 18 include any requirements related to political activism, service 19 learning, civic engagement, action civics, or any cognate 20 activity. The one unit of civics shall include instruction 21 related to all of the following: (a) The intellectual sources of the United States' 22 23 founding documents, including documents that illustrate the 24 Greek, Hebrew, and Roman exemplars of liberty and republican 25 government; the Christian synthesis of Greek, Hebrew, and Roman 26 thought that emphasized the equal dignity of all individual 27 humans in the eyes of God; the medieval English inheritance 28 of common law, jury, local self-government, liberty, and 29 representative government; the early modern English inheritance 30 of Christian liberty, republicanism, the militia, accountable 31 government, mixed government, parliamentary sovereignty, 32 freedom of the press, and the English bill of rights and 33 toleration Act; the colonial American inheritance of Christian 34 liberty, self-government, and local government; and the 35 enlightenment theories of John Locke, Montesquieu, Adam Smith,

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1 and their contemporaries that universalized the European 2 traditions of liberty. The political and military narrative of the causes and 3 (b) 4 progress of the American revolution. 5 (c) The original intent of the documents described in unnumbered paragraph 1. 6 7 (d) The Constitution of the United States, with an emphasis 8 on the Bill of Rights contained in the Constitution, and the 9 Constitution of the State of Iowa. (e) The basic principles of the United States' republican 10 11 form of government and the institutions and principles to 12 preserve liberty and prevent misuse of government power, 13 including balance of power; consent of the governed; the 14 electoral college; federalism and the division of powers 15 between the federal government and the states; individual 16 liberties; rights of life, liberty, and property; popular 17 sovereignty; religious freedom; an educated citizenry; 18 representative government; civilian control of the military; 19 rule of law; control of faction; checks and balances; and 20 separation of powers among the executive, the legislature, and 21 the judiciary. 22 (f) The historical development of the United States' 23 republican form of government, including the federalist and 24 antifederalist debates; the rise and role of political parties; 25 the rise of Jacksonian democracy; the expansion of the ideals 26 and institutions of liberty and republican self-government 27 to include all Americans, regardless of sex or race; the 28 causes and the constitutional consequences of the Civil War; 29 the thirteenth amendment, fourteenth amendment, fifteenth 30 amendment, and the nineteenth amendment; the rise of the new 31 deal administrative state; and United States Supreme Court 32 cases, including Marbury v. Madison, McCulloch v. Maryland, 33 Dred Scott v. Sandford, Pembina consolidated silver mining co. 34 v. Pennsylvania, Plessy v. Ferguson, and Brown v. Board of

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35 Education.

(g) The United States' republican form of government 1 2 compared with different forms of government including 3 dictatorship, monarchy, oligarchy, theocracy, communism, and 4 autocracy. 5 (h) The structure, function, and processes of governmental institutions at the federal, state, and local levels. 6 7 (i) Civic virtues exemplified in the lives of famous 8 Americans, including George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, 9 Alexander Hamilton, Abigail Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Andrew 10 Jackson, Frederick Douglass, Susan B. Anthony, Abraham Lincoln, 11 Ulysses S. Grant, Ely Parker, Thomas Edison, Andrew Carnegie, 12 Walter Reed, Theodore Roosevelt, Charles Curtis, Will Rogers, 13 Jim Thorpe, Jackie Robinson, George Marshall, Martin Luther 14 King, Jr., Richard Feynman, Neil Armstrong, and Ronald Reagan. (3) The two units of United States history shall include an 15 16 assessment of the student's knowledge of important historical 17 documents, including the Declaration of Independence, 18 the Constitution of the United States, the Emancipation 19 Proclamation, and excerpts from the federalist papers. One 20 unit of United States history shall focus on the period 21 of time beginning when the Mayflower landed on Cape Cod to 22 the conclusion of the Civil War. The other unit of United 23 States history shall focus on the period of time beginning 24 at the conclusion of the Civil War to the present day, which 25 unit shall include instruction related to the Holocaust and 26 crimes against humanity that have occurred under communist 27 regimes. The two units of United States history shall include 28 significant material related to the War of Independence and 29 the creation of the Constitution of the United States. The 30 two units of United States history shall be designed to 31 include significant biographical material related to exemplary 32 Americans to provide both the nation's shared constitutional 33 history and historical context. The two units of United 34 States history shall include instruction related to all of the 35 following:

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1 (a) The United States' exceptional and praiseworthy 2 history. (b) The basic political, diplomatic, and military history 3 4 of the United States, which shall include the period of 5 discovery, early colonies, the War of Independence, the 6 Civil War, the expansion of the United States to its present 7 boundaries, World War I, World War II, the Cold War, the civil 8 rights movement, and the period of time from the September 11 9 attacks to the present day, which shall incorporate the study 10 of primary source documents. (c) The basic history of business and technology in the 11 12 United States, which shall incorporate the study of primary 13 source documents. 14 (d) The basic history of the religious and secular aspects 15 of the United States' common culture, which shall incorporate 16 the study of primary source documents. (e) The concept that United States history shall be viewed 17 18 as factual, not as constructed, shall be viewed as knowable, 19 teachable, and testable, and shall be defined as the creation 20 of a new nation based largely on the universal principles 21 stated in the Declaration of Independence. 22 (4) The one unit of western civilization shall include 23 instruction related to all of the following: 24 (a) Western civilization's exceptional and praiseworthy 25 history. 26 (b) The basic political outline of western civilization, 27 which shall include the history of ancient Israel, the free 28 Greek city states, the Roman republic, the Roman empire, the 29 Carolingian empire, the medieval Papacy, medieval England, 30 absolutist France, parliamentary England, the Napoleonic 31 wars, World War I, World War II, the communist and fascist 32 challenges to the European order, and the survival and triumph 33 of political and economic liberty, which shall incorporate the 34 study of primary source documents.

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(c) The basic intellectual history of western civilization,
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1 which shall include its Greek, Hebrew, and Roman sources; 2 the Christian synthesis of those Greek, Hebrew, and Roman 3 sources that emphasized the equal dignity of all individual 4 humans in the eyes of God; the renaissance rediscovery of 5 republican liberty; the reformation; the medieval and early 6 modern English ideals and institutions of common law, jury, 7 the militia, local self-government, political and religious 8 liberty, representative government, accountable government, 9 and parliamentary sovereignty; the scientific revolution; 10 the enlightenment ideals of political and economic liberty; 11 the nineteenth-century formulation of the scientific and 12 humanist disciplines; the emergence of modern conservatism and 13 liberalism; and the challenges to liberty of socialism and 14 fascism, which shall incorporate the study of primary source 15 documents. 16 (d) The basic history of science and technology in western 17 civilization, which shall emphasize Europe's unique role as the 18 matrix of the modern scientific and industrial world, which 19 shall incorporate the study of primary source documents. 20 (e) The basic economic history of western civilization, 21 which shall emphasize Europe's unique role as the matrix of 22 modern mass prosperity, which emerged from the interplay 23 of the ideals and institutions of economic liberty, secure 24 property rights, entrepreneurial innovation, and the industrial 25 revolution, which shall incorporate the study of primary source 26 documents. 27 (f) The basic history of the religious and secular aspects 28 of western civilization's cultures, which shall emphasize the 29 protective aspects of liberty and incorporate the study of 30 primary source documents. (g) The basic history of the fruitful and enduring 31 32 attachment of western civilization's free peoples to their 33 nations and faiths, which shall incorporate the study of 34 primary source documents. The concept that western civilization's history shall 35 (h)

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1 be viewed as factual, not as constructed, shall be viewed as 2 knowable, teachable, and testable, and shall be defined as the 3 creation of a civilization based largely on the ideals and 4 institutions of liberty. Sec. 3. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, paragraph g, Code 5 6 2024, is amended to read as follows: q. Be subject to and comply with the requirements of section 7 8 256.7, subsection 21, and the educational standards of section 9 256.11, unless specifically waived by the state board during 10 the application process; provided, however, that the state 11 board shall not waive the educational standards related to 12 social studies instruction established in section 256.11, 13 subsections 3 and 4, and in section 256.11, subsection 5, 14 paragraph "b". 15 Sec. 4. Section 256F.4, subsection 2, Code 2024, is amended 16 by adding the following new paragraph: 17 NEW PARAGRAPH. p. Be subject to and comply with the 18 requirements of section 256.11, subsections 3 and 4, and 19 section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph b'', relating to 20 educational standards related to social studies instruction in 21 the same manner as a school district. 22 Sec. 5. Section 262.9, Code 2024, is amended by adding the 23 following new subsections: 24 NEW SUBSECTION. 39. a. (1) Direct the institutions of 25 higher education under its control to adopt policies that 26 require all students admitted to the baccalaureate degree 27 program provided by the institution to take a civic literacy 28 examination. 29 (2) Subparagraph (1) shall not apply to a student who has 30 taken and passed the civic literacy examination described in 31 section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph b'', subparagraph (2). b. If a student does not pass the civic literacy examination 32 33 described in paragraph "a", the institution shall require 34 the student to take a remedial civics course. The remedial 35 civics course shall include a culminating civic literacy

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examination. The remedial civics course shall not contain any
 requirements related to political activism, service learning,
 civic engagement, action civics, or any cognate activity.

4 c. If a student does not pass the civic literacy examination 5 described in paragraph "b", the student shall be allowed to 6 retake the examination as many times as is necessary for the 7 student to pass the examination; provided, however, that the 8 student shall not be allowed to graduate from the institution, 9 or progress to more advanced civics courses, until the student 10 passes the examination.

11 <u>NEW SUBSECTION</u>. 40. Prohibit the institutions of higher 12 education under its control from awarding students any semester 13 hours of credit for courses that require action civics or 14 political activism.

15 Sec. 6. <u>NEW SECTION</u>. 280.36 Education on the holocaust.
16 1. The general assembly finds all of the following:
17 a. Recent studies have shown there to be a severe lack
18 of awareness in the state of Iowa regarding historical facts
19 about the holocaust and antisemitism, and the causes and
20 ramifications thereof.

21 b. Antisemitism remains a persistent, pervasive, and22 disturbing problem in contemporary American society.

23 c. In order to provide students with an understanding of the 24 importance of the protection of human rights and the potential 25 consequences of discrimination against and persecution of 26 Jewish people, it is a matter of high priority that students in 27 this state be educated concerning the holocaust.

d. Sources of free curricula and instructional materials for education on the holocaust include but are not limited to the United States holocaust memorial museum; yad vashem: the world holocaust remembrance center; the Illinois holocaust museum and education center; and echoes and reflections, a partnership of the anti-defamation league, yad vashem, and the university of southern California shoah foundation.

35 2. For purposes of this section, unless the context

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1 otherwise requires:

2 a. "Antisemitism" means the same as defined in section 3 216F.1.

b. "Holocaust" means the systematic, bureaucratic,
state-sponsored persecution and murder of approximately
six million Jews by the Nazi regime and its allies and
collaborators.

8 c. "Nazi" means the abbreviation for the national socialist 9 German workers' party, a political party of the mass movement 10 known as national socialism under which its leader, Adolf 11 Hitler, came to power in 1933 and governed by totalitarian 12 methods until 1945.

13 d. "Organization" means one or more of the following
14 organizations:

15 (1) The United States holocaust memorial museum.

16 (2) Yad vashem: the world holocaust remembrance center.

17 (3) The Illinois holocaust museum and education center.

18 (4) Echoes and reflections, a partnership of the 19 anti-defamation league, yad vashem, and the university of 20 southern California shoah foundation.

21 (5) Any other entity approved for education on the holocaust 22 by the department of education.

3. *a.* No later than the school year beginning July 1, 2024, the board of directors of a school district shall incorporate age-appropriate and grade-appropriate instruction regarding the holocaust for students in middle and high school into the school district's educational program. Such instruction shall be incorporated into existing required courses and include, at minimum, the following:

30 (1) The causes and ramifications of the holocaust.
31 (2) The breadth of the history of antisemitism and
32 the holocaust, including the third reich dictatorship,
33 concentration camp system, persecution of Jews and non-Jews,
34 Jewish and non-Jewish resistance, and post-World War II trials.
35 (3) The impact of personal responsibility, civic

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l engagement, and societal response in the context of the
2 holocaust.

3 (4) The connection between national, ethnic, racial,
4 or religious intolerance and the subjects described in
5 subparagraphs (1) and (2).

6 (5) The leading role played by the United States and 7 the United States armed forces, including African American 8 soldiers, including but not limited to the Tuskegee airmen, 9 as well as Native American and Asian American soldiers, in 10 defeating the third reich and its allies and liberating Nazi 11 concentration camps.

12 (6) The definition, history, and actions taken in the face 13 of the holocaust.

14 b. School districts shall utilize appropriate public or 15 private materials, personnel, and other resources in developing 16 and implementing education on the holocaust in accordance with 17 this section.

18 4. No later than the school year beginning July 1, 2024, 19 the board of directors of a school district shall incorporate 20 education on the holocaust for teachers into the district 21 professional development plan developed pursuant to section 22 284.6 for teachers who provide instruction in courses into 23 which student instruction in accordance with subsection 3 is 24 incorporated. Such training shall cover the topics required 25 by subsection 3. School districts shall utilize appropriate 26 programs provided by an organization for such training. 27 Education on the holocaust provided to teachers in accordance 28 with this section shall be credited toward a teacher's 29 individual professional development plan under section 284.6. 30 Annually by October 1, the department of education 5. 31 shall submit a report to the governor and the general assembly 32 addressing the number of school districts offering education 33 on the holocaust to students and teachers in accordance with 34 this section. The department shall publish the report on the 35 department's internet site.

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1 6. This section shall not be construed to diminish or 2 infringe upon any right protected under the Constitution of 3 the State of Iowa or the first amendment to the Constitution 4 of the United States. This section shall not be construed to 5 conflict with any local, state, or federal law relating to 6 discrimination.

7 Sec. 7. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACT. Section 25B.2, subsection8 3, shall not apply to this Act.

9 Sec. 8. NO IMPACT ON GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS. The section 10 of this Act amending section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph 11 "b", shall not affect the graduation requirements applicable 12 to a student enrolled in grades nine through twelve as of the 13 effective date of this Act.

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