

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 352

5 By: Senators Stone, Gilmore
6 By: Representative Beaty Jr.
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT ANTISEMITISM IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY
10 AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS; TO PROHIBIT ANTISEMITISM IN
11 STATE-SUPPORTED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION; AND
12 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
13
14

Subtitle

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16 TO PROHIBIT ANTISEMITISM IN PUBLIC
17 ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS; AND TO
18 PROHIBIT ANTISEMITISM IN STATE-SUPPORTED
19 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
22

23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, is amended to add an
24 additional subchapter to read as follows:

25 Subchapter 20 – Prohibition Against Antisemitism in Public Elementary and
26 Secondary Schools
27

28 6-16-2001. Legislative findings and intent.

29 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

30 (1) A historic rise in antisemitic violence, harassment, and
31 discrimination has occurred at kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12)
32 schools across the United States, targeting Jewish students;

33 (2) In April 2024, the Director of the Federal Bureau of
34 Investigation found that the number of Federal Bureau of Investigation
35 investigations into antisemitic hate crimes tripled in the months after
36 October 7, 2023;



1 (3) According to a recent Gallup poll, eighty-one percent (81%)
 2 of Americans now see antisemitic as either a "very serious" or "somewhat
 3 serious" problem, up from fifty-seven percent (57%) two (2) decades ago;

4 (4) Acts of antisemitic on kindergarten through grade twelve (K-
 5 12) school campuses undermine the educational and social fabric of our
 6 educational institutions; and

7 (5) Promoting understanding, tolerance, and respect for all
 8 students and school employees is imperative.

9 (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly to require all
 10 kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) schools to address and prohibit
 11 antisemitic discrimination at kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12)
 12 schools.

13
 14 6-16-2002. Definitions.

15 As used in this section:

16 (1) "Antisemitism" means the same as defined by the
 17 International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance in its working definition of
 18 antisemitism, including its contemporary examples, as it was adopted on May
 19 26, 2016;

20 (2) "Institution of higher education" means a public two-year or
 21 four-year institution of higher education; and

22 (3) "School" means a kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12):

23 (A) Public school or public school district; or

24 (B) Open-enrollment public charter school.

25
 26 6-16-2003. Requirements.

27 (a) Each school shall treat harassment or discrimination that is
 28 motivated by or includes antisemitic intent by a student or school employee
 29 or is a result of school policies or programs on the school campus in the
 30 same manner as discrimination prohibited by federal law.

31 (b) Each school district board of directors shall adopt policies that
 32 include:

33 (1) The definition of antisemitism under this subchapter; and

34 (2) Prohibited conduct as it specifically relates to
 35 antisemitism, which shall include:

36 (A) Harassment and discrimination against Jews in

1 compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Pub. L. No. 88-352,
2 as it existed on January 1, 2025; and

3 (B) Antidiscrimination regulations provided by the United
4 States Department of Education and the United States Department of Justice.

5 (c) Each school is encouraged to:

6 (1) Incorporate antisemitism awareness training for all
7 students, school employees, school administrators, and school campus police;
8 and

9 (2) Integrate Jewish-American heritage curriculum for students
10 that incorporates Jewish experiences in the United States pre- and post-
11 American Revolution, pre- and post-World War II and the Holocaust, and in
12 modern times.

13 (d) Each school shall place reasonable time, place, and manner
14 restrictions on speech to ensure order and protect the rights of all
15 students.

16
17 6-16-2004. Monitoring requirement.

18 (a)(1) The Department of Education shall designate a Title VI
19 Coordinator who shall monitor antisemitic discrimination and harassment at
20 schools and institutions of higher education.

21 (2) The individual designated by the department as a Title VI
22 Coordinator under subdivision (a)(1) of this section may be a current
23 employee of the department.

24 (b) Each school and institution of higher education shall formally
25 report an incident or complaint of antisemitic discrimination or harassment
26 under this subchapter to the Title VI Coordinator.

27 (c) The Title VI Coordinator established under this section shall:

28 (1) Establish, maintain, and publicize a formal reporting
29 process whereby the following individuals may submit a complaint of
30 antisemitic discrimination or harassment:

31 (A) All students, parents, legal guardians, and persons
32 standing in loco parentis to students, and school employees can submit a
33 complaint of antisemitic discrimination or harassment;

34 (B) All students enrolled in an institution of higher
35 education; and

36 (C) All faculty and staff employed by an institution of

1 higher education.

2 (2)(A) Thoroughly investigate a complaint received under this
3 section.

4 (B)(i) If the Title VI Coordinator, after reasonable
5 investigation, determines that a school or an institution of higher education
6 has engaged in, allowed, or not taken the necessary action in response to
7 antisemitic discrimination prohibited under this subchapter, then the Title
8 VI Coordinator shall provide written notice to the school or institution of
9 higher education to address the Title VI Coordinator's concerns within thirty
10 (30) days of receipt of the notice.

11 (ii) If the Title VI Coordinator determines that a
12 school or an institution of higher education has not taken the necessary
13 action in accordance with the notice received under subdivision (c)(2)(B)(i)
14 of this section within thirty (30) days, then the Title VI Coordinator shall
15 report its finding to the United States Department of Education and United
16 States Department of Justice by making a complaint under Title VI of the
17 Civil Rights Act of 1964, Pub. L. No. 88-352; and

18 (3) By or before June 30 of each year issue an annual report on
19 antisemitism in schools and institutions of higher education to the General
20 Assembly.

21 (d) The General Assembly is encouraged to:

22 (1) Conduct hearings or investigations to assess any school or
23 institution of higher education that is found to inadequately address
24 antisemitic discrimination and harassment complaints under this section; and

25 (2) Consider reducing or eliminating any state funding provided
26 to a school or state-supported institution of higher education that is found
27 to inadequately address antisemitic discrimination and harassment complaints
28 under this section.

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30 6-16-2005. Exceptions.

31 (a) Nothing in this act shall be construed to diminish or infringe
32 upon any right protected under the First Amendment to the United States
33 Constitution or Arkansas Constitution, Article 2, §§ 4, 6, and 24.

34 (b) Nothing in this act shall be construed to conflict with federal or
35 state discrimination laws.

36 (c) Criticism of the State of Israel that is similar to criticism

1 toward any other country may not be regarded as antisemitic.

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3 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 60, is amended to add an
4 additional subchapter to read as follows:

5 Subchapter 16 – Prohibition Against Antisemitism in Institutions of Higher
6 Education

7
8 6-60-1601. Legislative findings and intent.

9 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

10 (1) A historic rise in antisemitic violence, harassment, and
11 discrimination has occurred at institutions of higher education across the
12 United States, targeting Jewish students;

13 (2) In April 2024, the Director of the Federal Bureau of
14 Investigation found that the number of Federal Bureau of Investigation
15 investigations into antisemitic hate crimes tripled in the months after
16 October 7, 2023;

17 (3) According to a recent Gallup poll, eighty-one percent (81%)
18 of Americans now see antisemitism as either a "very serious" or "somewhat
19 serious" problem, up from fifty-seven percent (57%) two (2) decades ago;

20 (4) Acts of antisemitism on institution of higher education
21 campuses undermine the educational and social fabric of our educational
22 institutions; and

23 (5) Promoting understanding, tolerance, and respect for all
24 students and institution of higher education employees is imperative.

25 (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly to require all
26 institutions of higher education to address and prohibit antisemitic
27 discrimination at institution of higher education campuses.

28
29 6-60-1602. Definitions.

30 As used in this section:

31 (1) "Antisemitism" means the same as defined by the
32 International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance in its working definition of
33 antisemitism, including its contemporary examples, as it was adopted on May
34 26, 2016; and

35 (2) "Institution of higher education" means a public two-year or
36 four-year institution of higher education.

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2 6-60-1603. Requirements.

3 (a) Each institution of higher education shall treat harassment or
4 discrimination that is motivated by or includes antisemitic intent by a
5 student enrolled in the institution of higher education or an individual
6 employed by the institution of higher education or that is a result of
7 institution of higher education policies or programs on the institution of
8 higher education campus in the same manner as discrimination motivated by
9 race.

10 (b) Each institution of higher education shall incorporate into its
11 student and employee codes of conduct:

12 (1) The definition of antisemitism under this subchapter; and

13 (2) Prohibited conduct as it specifically relates to
14 antisemitism, which shall include:

15 (A) Harassment and discrimination against Jews in
16 compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Pub. L. No. 88-352,
17 as it existed on January 1, 2025; and

18 (B) Antidiscrimination regulations provided by the United
19 States Department of Education and the United States Department of Justice.

20 (c) Each institution of higher education is encouraged to:

21 (1) Incorporate antisemitism awareness training for all students
22 enrolled in the institution of higher education and individuals employed by
23 the institution of higher education; and

24 (2) Integrate Jewish-American heritage curriculum for students
25 enrolled in the institution of higher education that incorporates Jewish
26 experiences in the United States pre- and post-American Revolution, pre- and
27 post-World War II and the Holocaust, and in modern times.

28 (d) Each institution of higher education shall place reasonable time,
29 place, and manner restrictions on speech to ensure order and protect the
30 rights of all students enrolled in the institution of higher education.

31
32 6-60-1604. Monitoring.

33 Each institution of higher education shall comply with monitoring and
34 reporting requirements under § 6-16-2004.

35
36 6-60-1605. Exceptions.

1 (a) Nothing in this act shall be construed to diminish or infringe
2 upon any right protected under the First Amendment to the United States
3 Constitution or Arkansas Constitution, Article 2, §§ 4, 6, and 24.

4 (b) Nothing in this act shall be construed to conflict with federal or
5 state discrimination laws.

6 (c) Criticism of the State of Israel that is similar to criticism
7 toward any other country may not be regarded as antisemitic.

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