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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sHB 7012**

#### ***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS ANTISEMITISM IN SCHOOLS.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill establishes a 10-member working group to address antisemitism in public schools. Under the bill, the group must assist and provide resources to the State Department of Education, local and regional boards of education, and other education stakeholders and associations to address antisemitism that affects students, families, educators, and school personnel.

The assistance and resources may include, but are not limited to:

1. working with school boards to amend school district policies to ensure that all students, educators, and school personnel feel safe inside and outside of the school setting;
2. offering antisemitism-related training for educators and administrators; and
3. creating or providing curriculum materials and resources about antisemitism, Jewish heritage, and Holocaust and genocide education and awareness.

The curriculum materials and resources must be appropriate for school districts to use in meeting the existing requirement that Holocaust and genocide education and awareness be part of every school district's social studies curriculum.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

#### **WORKING GROUP MEMBERSHIP**

In addition to the Education Committee chairs and ranking members, or their respective designees, the working group includes six members

appointed by the legislative leaders. The table below shows the appointing authority and qualifying description for each of these appointed working group members.

**Table: Working Group to Address Antisemitism**

| <b><i>Appointing Authority</i></b> | <b><i>Qualifying Description</i></b>   |
|------------------------------------|--|
| House speaker                      | a Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford representative   |
| Senate president pro tempore       | a professor from a university in Connecticut   |
| House majority leader              | a social studies teacher in a Connecticut public school  |
| Senate majority leader             | an Anti-Defamation League representative who has expertise in addressing and combatting antisemitism                                     |
| House minority leader              | a Voices of Hope representative who also represents a Jewish community organization that specializes in Holocaust and genocide education |
| Senate minority leader             | a curriculum specialist with experience working for a Jewish nonprofit organization  |

All initial working group appointments must be made by July 31, 2025. Any vacancy is filled by the appointing authority.

The House speaker and the Senate president pro tempore select the working group chairperson from among the members. The chairperson must schedule the first meeting of the working group by August 30, 2025.

The administrative staff of the Education Committee serves as the working group's administrative staff.

By February 1, 2026, the working group must submit a report on its activities, and any recommendations for legislation, to the Education Committee. The working group may submit additional reports as needed.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 44 Nay 0 (03/21/2025)