



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 516

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5328

House of Representatives, April 8, 2026

The Committee on Education reported through REP. LEEPER of the 132nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS ANTI-MUSLIM AND ANTI-ARAB RACISM IN SCHOOLS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a
2 working group to address anti-Muslim and anti-Arab racism in public
3 schools. The working group shall develop guidance and resources to
4 address issues relating to anti-Muslim and anti-Arab racism that affect
5 students, families, educators and school personnel. Such guidance and
6 resources may include, but need not be limited to, (1) suggested
7 amendments to school district policies to ensure that all students,
8 educators and school personnel feel safe inside and outside of the school
9 setting, (2) recommended training relating to anti-Muslim and anti-
10 Arab racism for educators and administrators, and (3) guidance in the
11 creation or provision of curriculum materials and resources relating to
12 Islamic and Arab studies, pursuant to the provisions of section 10-16b
13 of the general statutes, and genocide education and awareness,
14 pursuant to the provisions of section 10-18f of the general statutes,

15 including, but not limited to, the history, heritage, contributions and
16 persecution of Muslim communities.

17 (b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

18 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
19 one of whom shall be a school administrator with expertise and
20 knowledge in developing and implementing curricula in public schools
21 in the state, and one of whom shall be a representative of the
22 Connecticut chapter of the Muslim Justice Center;

23 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of
24 whom shall have knowledge and national and local expertise and
25 experience in developing innovative and collaborative resources to
26 address anti-Muslim and anti-Arab racism in elementary and secondary
27 schools, and one of whom shall be a representative of the Connecticut
28 chapter of Muslim Advocacy for Rights, Unity and Fairness;

29 (3) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of
30 Representatives, who shall be teachers with professional knowledge
31 and proven experience in addressing and combatting anti-Muslim or
32 anti-Arab racism in public schools, one of whom shall be a member of
33 the American Federation of Teachers-Connecticut and one of whom
34 shall be a member of the Connecticut Education Association;

35 (4) Two appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be
36 faculty members of an institution of higher education with expertise in
37 curriculum development and knowledge and experience in addressing
38 anti-Muslim and anti-Arab racism and teaching Muslim heritage, one of
39 whom shall be a member of the Congress of Connecticut Community
40 Colleges, SEIU Local 1973, and one of whom shall be a member of the
41 Connecticut State Conference of the American Association of University
42 Professors;

43 (5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of
44 Representatives, one of whom shall have experience in school
45 administration and expertise in addressing and combatting anti-Muslim

46 and anti-Arab racism in public schools, and one of whom shall be a
47 parent of a Muslim student in the state;

48 (6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of whom
49 shall have professional experience addressing anti-Muslim and anti-
50 Arab racism in the state, and one of whom shall be a Muslim student in
51 the state;

52 (7) Two appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be a
53 representative of the Connecticut chapter of the Council on American
54 Islamic Relations, and one of whom shall be a representative of the
55 Muslim Coalition of Connecticut;

56 (8) The executive director of the Connecticut Association of Boards of
57 Education, or the executive director's designee;

58 (9) The executive director of the Connecticut Association of Public
59 School Superintendents, or the executive director's designee;

60 (10) The president of the Connecticut Education Association, or the
61 president's designee; and

62 (11) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee.

63 (c) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made not
64 later than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy
65 shall be filled by the appointing authority.

66 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
67 pro tempore of the Senate shall each select a cochairperson of the
68 working group from among the members of the working group. Such
69 cochairpersons shall jointly schedule the first meeting of the working
70 group, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective
71 date of this section.

72 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
73 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
74 shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

75 (f) Not later than January 1, 2027, the working group shall submit the
76 guidance and resources developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this
77 section and any recommendations for legislation to the joint standing
78 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
79 relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
80 of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill, which establishes a working group to address anti-Muslim and anti-Arab racism in public schools, has no fiscal impact. It is anticipated that the working group has the necessary expertise to meet the requirements.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5328*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS ANTI-MUSLIM AND ANTI-ARAB RACISM IN SCHOOLS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill establishes an 18-member working group to address anti-Muslim and anti-Arab racism in public schools and develop guidance and resources on the topic. The working group must report on its guidance and resources, as well as recommendations for legislation, to the Education Committee by January 1, 2027.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

WORKING GROUP ON ANTI-MUSLIM AND ANTI-ARAB RACISM IN SCHOOLS***Group Charge***

The bill establishes a working group to (1) address issues related to anti-Muslim and anti-Arab racism that affect students, families, educators, and school personnel in public schools and (2) develop guidance and resources on the topic.

Under the bill, guidance and resources may include:

1. suggestions to amend school policies to ensure that all students, educators, and school personnel feel safe inside and outside of the school;
2. recommendations on training for educators and administrators; and
3. guidance in creating or providing curriculum materials and resources relating to Islamic and Arab studies and genocide education awareness, including the history, heritage,

contributions, and persecution of Muslim communities.

Membership

In addition to the education commissioner, Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) executive director, Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) executive director, and Connecticut Education Association (CEA) president, or their respective designees, the group includes 14 members who must be appointed within 30 days after the bill’s passage, as shown in the table below.

**Table: Working Group to Address Anti-Muslim and Anti-Arab Racism in Schools
Appointed Members**

Appointing Authority	Number of Appointments	Qualifications
House speaker	Two	Connecticut school administrator with expertise and knowledge in developing and implementing public school curricula Representative of the Connecticut chapter of the Muslim Justice Center
Senate president pro tempore	Two	Individual with knowledge and national and local expertise and experience in developing innovative and collaborative resources to address anti-Muslim and anti-Arab racism in elementary and secondary schools Representative of the Connecticut chapter of Muslim Advocacy for Rights, Unity and Fairness
House majority leader	Two	Two teachers with professional knowledge and proven experience in addressing and combatting anti-Muslim or anti-Arab racism in public schools, with one teacher being a member of the American Federation of Teachers-CT and the other being a member of the CEA
Senate majority leader	Two	Two higher education institution faculty members with expertise in curriculum development and knowledge and experience in addressing anti-Muslim and anti-Arab racism and teaching Muslim heritage, with one being from the Congress of Connecticut Community Colleges, SEIU Local 1973, and the other being a member of the Connecticut State Conference of the American Association of University Professors
House minority leader	Two	Individual with experience in school administration and expertise in addressing and combatting anti-Muslim and anti-Arab racism in public schools Parent of a Muslim student in the state
Senate minority	Two	Individual with professional experience addressing anti-

Appointing Authority	Number of Appointments	Qualifications
leader		Muslim and anti-Arab racism Muslim student in the state
Governor	Two	Representative of the Connecticut chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations Representative of the Muslim Coalition of Connecticut

The House speaker and Senate president pro tempore must each select a co-chairperson from the working group members. These co-chairpersons must convene the working group within 60 days after the bill’s passage.

The Education Committee’s administrative staff must serve as the group’s administrative staff.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 45 Nay 1 (03/18/2026)