



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5328

February Session, 2026



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.*