
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 leader	Two	Individual with professional experience addressing anti-Muslim and anti-Arab racism Muslim student in the state
Governor	Two	Representative of the Connecticut chapter of the Council

<i>Appointing Authority</i>	<i>Number of Appointments</i>	<i>Qualifications</i>
		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)