

Assembly Bill No. 1915

CHAPTER 570

An act to add Part 8.5 (commencing with Section 13000) to the Education Code, relating to the California Civil Liberties Public Education Act, and making an appropriation therefor.

[Approved by Governor September 17, 1998. Filed
with Secretary of State September 18, 1998.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1915, Honda. WWII internment of Japanese Americans: California Civil Liberties Public Education Act.

Existing law declares legislative intent to provide accurate instructional materials to schools on the internment in the United States of persons of Japanese origin and its impact on Japanese-American citizens and the Armenian genocide. Existing law provides legislative findings and declarations that there are few films or videotapes available on the subject for teachers to use when teaching pupils about these 2 devastating events, and that films or videotapes giving the historically accurate depiction of these events should be made in order that pupils will recognize these events for the horror they represented. Existing law encourages teachers to use these films or videotapes as a resource in teaching pupils about these 2 important historical events that are commonly overlooked in today's school curriculum.

This bill would enact the California Civil Liberties Public Education Act. This bill would require the State Librarian to establish a program for the provision of grants for the purpose of educating, or developing educational materials, or both, about the exclusion, forced removal, and internment of Japanese-Americans and permanent-resident aliens of Japanese ancestry during WWII.

The bill would reappropriate \$1,000,000 appropriated to the Department of Education by the Budget Act of 1998 to the California State Library for purposes of this act.

Appropriation: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Part 8.5 (commencing with Section 13000) is added to the Education Code, to read:



PART 8.5. THE CALIFORNIA CIVIL LIBERTIES PUBLIC
EDUCATION ACT

CHAPTER 1. GENERAL

13000. (a) This part shall be known and may be cited as the California Civil Liberties Public Education Act. The purpose of the California Civil Liberties Public Education Act is to sponsor public educational activities and development of educational materials to ensure that the events surrounding the exclusion, forced removal, and internment of civilians and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry will be remembered, and so that the causes and circumstance of this and similar events may be illuminated and understood.

(b) The Legislature finds and declares that the federal Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) was established by Congress in 1980 to “review the facts and circumstances surrounding Executive Order 9066, issued in February 19, 1942, and the impact of such Executive Order on American citizens and permanent residents... and to recommend appropriate remedies.” The CWRIC issued a report of its findings in 1983 with the reports “Personal Justice Denied” and “Personal Justice Denied-Part II, Recommendations.” The reports were based on information gathered “through 20 days of hearings in cities across the country, particularly the West Coast, hearing testimony from more than 750 witnesses: evacuees, former government officials, public figures, interested citizens, and historians and other professionals who have studied the subjects of Commission inquiry.”

(c) The lessons to be learned from the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II are embodied in “Personal Justice Denied-Part II, Recommendations.” The CWRIC concluded as follows: “In sum, Executive Order 9066 was not justified by military necessity, and the decisions that followed from it-exclusion, detention, the ending of detention and the ending of exclusion-were not founded upon military considerations. The broad historical causes that shaped these decisions were race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership. Widespread ignorance about Americans of Japanese descent contributed to a policy conceived in haste and executed in an atmosphere of fear and anger at Japan. A grave personal injustice was done to the American citizens and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry who, without individual review or any probative evidence against them were excluded, removed and detained by the United States during World War II.”

(d) The Legislature further finds and declares that President Ronald Reagan signed into law the federal Civil Liberties Act of 1988 and declared during the signing ceremony that “This is a great day for America.” In that act the Congress declared as follows:



“The Congress recognizes that, as described in the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, a grave injustice was done to both citizens and permanent residents of Japanese ancestry by the evacuation, relocation, and internment of civilians during World War II. As the Commission documents, these actions were carried out without adequate security reasons and without any acts of espionage or sabotage documented by the Commission, and were motivated largely by racial prejudice, wartime hysteria, and a failure of political leadership. The excluded individuals of Japanese ancestry suffered enormous damages, both material and intangible, and there were incalculable losses in education and job training, all of which resulted in significant human suffering for which appropriate compensation has not been made. For these fundamental violations of the basic civil liberties and constitutional rights of these individuals of Japanese ancestry, the Congress apologizes on behalf of the Nation.”

CHAPTER 2. CALIFORNIA CIVIL LIBERTIES PUBLIC EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

13015. (a) The State Librarian shall allocate grants pursuant to the program established by this part. The grants awarded under the program shall be awarded on a competitive basis.

(b) The State Librarian may contract with independent review panelists and establish an advisory panel to evaluate and make recommendations to the State Librarian based on grant applications.

(c) The State Librarian shall select as grant recipients applicants who meet all of the following criteria:

(1) Applicants demonstrate the capability to, administer and complete the proposed project within specified deadlines and within the specified budget.

(2) Applicants have the experience, knowledge, and qualifications to conduct quality educational activities regarding the exclusion and detention of Japanese-Americans during World War II.

(3) Projects link the Japanese-American exclusion and detention experience with the experiences of other populations so that the cause and circumstances of this and similar violations of civil rights or acts of injustice may be illuminated and understood.

(4) Projects are designed to maximize the long-term educational impact of this chapter.

(5) Projects build upon, contribute to, and expand upon, the existing body of educational and research materials on the exclusion and detention of Japanese-Americans during World War II.

(6) Projects include the variety of experiences regarding the exclusion and detention of Japanese-Americans and its impact before, during, and after, World War II including those



Japanese-Americans who served in the military and those who were interned in Department of Justice camps.

(d) Applicants for grants pursuant to this section are encouraged to do each of the following:

(1) Involve former detainees, those excluded from the military area, and their descendants in the development and implementation of projects.

(2) Develop a strategy and plan for raising the level of awareness and understanding among the American public regarding the exclusion and detention of Japanese-Americans during World War II so that the causes and circumstances of this and similar events may be illuminated and understood.

(3) Develop a strategy and plan for reaching the broad, multicultural population through project activities.

(4) Develop local and regional consortia of organizations and individuals engaged in similar educational, research, and development efforts.

(5) Coordinate and collaborate with organizations and individuals engaging in similar educational, research, and development endeavors to maximize the effect of grants.

(6) Utilize creative and innovative methods and approaches in the research, development, and implementation of their projects.

(7) Seek matching funds, in-kind contributions, or other sources of support to supplement their proposal.

(8) Use a variety of media, including new technology, and the arts to creatively and strategically appeal to a broad American public while enhancing and enriching community-based educational efforts.

(9) Include in the grant application scholarly inquiry related to the variety of experiences and impact of the exclusion and detention of persons of Japanese ancestry during World War II, as well as its relationship to the experience of other populations so that the causes, circumstances, lessons, and contemporary applications of this and similar events will be illuminated and understood.

(10) Add relevant materials to or catalogue relevant materials in libraries and other repositories for the creation, publication, and distribution of bibliographies, curriculum guides, oral histories, and other resource directories and supporting the continued development of scholarly work on this subject by making a broad range of archival, library, and research materials more accessible to the American public.

(e) The State Librarian may adopt other criteria as it deems appropriate for its review of grant proposals. In reviewing projects for funding, scoring shall be based on an evaluation of all application materials: narratives, attachments, support letters, supplementary materials, and other materials that may be requested of applicants.



13020. (a) In the review process, the State Librarian shall assign the following order of priority to the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 13015:

(1) Criteria set forth in paragraphs (1) to (4), inclusive, shall be given highest priority.

(2) Criteria set forth in paragraphs (5) to (6), inclusive, shall be given second priority.

(b) The State Librarian shall consider the overall breadth and variety of the field of applicants to determine the projects that would best fulfill its program and mission. Final grant awards may be for the full amount of the grant requests or for a portion of the grant request.

(c) Applicants for grants pursuant to this section may include any of the following:

(1) Nonprofit organizations exempt from taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(2) Four-year colleges and universities.

(3) Cultural institutions, arts organizations, and community organizations.

(4) Individual artists, writers, journalists, scholars, and educators.

(5) Units of government.

(6) Consortia composed of any of the entities described in paragraphs (1) to (5), inclusive.

(d) Grants allocated pursuant to this section shall be provided for the general purpose of establishing a legacy of remembrance as part of a continuing process of recovery from World War II exclusion and detention and specifically to do one or both of the following:

(1) Educate the public regarding the history and the lessons of the World War II exclusion, removal, and detention of persons of Japanese ancestry through the development, coordination, and distribution of new educational materials and the development of curriculum materials to complement and augment resources currently available on this subject matter.

(2) Develop videos, plays, presentations, speaker bureaus, and exhibitions for presentation to elementary, secondary, and community college audiences.

13025. On or before January 1, 2001, the State Librarian shall report to the Governor and the appropriate fiscal and policy committees of each house of the Legislature on the types of grants awarded and the accomplishments of the program established pursuant to this part.

13030. It is the intent of the Legislature that the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) be annually appropriated for three years from the General Fund to the State Librarian for purposes of this chapter.

SEC. 2. The sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) appropriated by Item 6110-199-0001 of Section 2.0 of the Budget Act of 1998 is hereby reappropriated to the California State Library for purposes



of the California Civil Liberties Public Education Act contained in Part 8.5 (commencing with Section 13000) of the Education Code.

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