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House Bill 4276 (as reported without amendment)
Sponsor: Representative Marc Shulman
House Committee: Great Lakes and Tourism
Senate Committee: Local, Urban and State Affairs

CONTENT

The bill would create a new act to establish "Holocaust Remembrance Day" and the "Days of Remembrance" in Michigan "in memory of the victims of the Holocaust, and in honor of the survivors, as well as the rescuers and liberators". Under the bill, the 27th day of the month of Nisan in the Hebrew calendar would be Holocaust Remembrance Day, and the period beginning on the Sunday before that day through the following Sunday would be the Days of Remembrance. (In the Hebrew calendar, over the next 10 years, the 27th day of Nisan will fall on April 18, 2004; May 6, 2005; April 25, 2006; April 15, 2007; May 2, 2008; April 21, 2009; April 11, 2010; May 1, 2011; April 19, 2012; and April 7, 2013.)

The bill specifies that a key date in the history of the Holocaust is April 19, 1943, when the Warsaw ghetto uprising began. Using homemade bombs and stolen or bartered weapons, Jews in the Warsaw ghetto resisted deportation to Nazi death camps for 27 days. That day was the 27th day of Nisan, which Congress has established as a national Holocaust remembrance day. Congress also has recognized the week surrounding that date as the Days of Remembrance.

Under the bill, the Legislature would encourage "individuals, educational institutions, and social, community, religious, labor, and business organizations to pause on Holocaust remembrance day and during the Days of Remembrance and reflect upon the terrible events of the Holocaust, so that as a society we will remain vigilant against hatred, persecution, and tyranny and actively rededicate ourselves to the principles of individual freedom in a just society".

The bill states: "The legislature recognizes that the horrors of the Holocaust should never be forgotten. The Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945. In addition to the murder of some 6,000,000 Jews, millions more, including the handicapped, Poles, Gypsies, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, prisoners of war, and political dissidents, also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi tyranny."

Legislative Analyst: Patrick Affholter

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Date Completed: 1-30-04

Fiscal Analyst: Bill Bowerman