

SENATE BILL No. 315

March 13, 2001, Introduced by Senators MC COTTER and LELAND and referred to the Committee on Government Operations.

A bill to establish Holocaust remembrance week in the state of Michigan.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. (1) The legislature recognizes that the horrors of
2 the Holocaust should never be forgotten. The Holocaust was the
3 state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of
4 European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933
5 and 1945. In addition to the murder of some 6,000,000 Jews, mil-
6 lions more, including the handicapped, Poles, Gypsies, homosexu-
7 als, Jehovah's Witnesses, prisoners of war, and political dissi-
8 dents, also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi
9 tyranny.

10 (2) A key date in the history of the Holocaust is April 19,
11 1943, the beginning of the Warsaw ghetto uprising, when Jews,
12 using homemade bombs and stolen or bartered weapons, resisted

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SB 315, As Passed Senate, March 22, 2001

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1 death camp deportation by the Nazis for 27 days. This date,
2 which in the Hebrew calendar is the twenty-seventh day of Nisan,
3 has been established by the United States congress as a national
4 Holocaust remembrance day, and the week surrounding this date has
5 been established as the Days of Remembrance.

6 (3) The legislature declares that the twenty-seventh day of
7 the month of Nisan in the Hebrew calendar shall be Holocaust
8 remembrance day, and that the period beginning on the Sunday
9 before that day through the following Sunday shall be the Days of
10 Remembrance in this state, in memory of the victims of the
11 Holocaust, and in honor of the survivors, as well as the rescuers
12 and liberators.

13 Sec. 2. The legislature encourages individuals, educational
14 institutions, and social, community, religious, labor, and busi-
15 ness organizations to pause on Holocaust remembrance day and
16 during the Days of Remembrance and reflect upon the terrible
17 events of the Holocaust, so that as a society we will remain vig-
18 ilant against hatred, persecution, and tyranny and actively
19 rededicate ourselves to the principles of individual freedom in a
20 just society.