

HCS HB 937 -- PROTECTIONS AGAINST DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS (Hruza)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development

This bill defines "antisemitism" and requires that public schools, school districts, and public institutions of higher education integrate the definition of antisemitism into codes of conduct and prohibit antisemitic conduct.

Public schools, school districts, and public institutions of higher education are encouraged to integrate a Jewish American heritage curriculum for students.

The bill prohibits discrimination by public schools, school districts, and public institutions of higher education on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or marital status against students or employees. The bill provides that classes, guidance services, counseling services, and financial assistance services be available equally.

The bill requires the State Board of Education and the Coordinating Board for Higher Education to establish Title VI coordinators to monitor antisemitic discrimination and harassment at public schools and education institutions. The coordinators will investigate complaints and determine if an education institution allowed or failed to prohibit the discrimination and harassment and compile annual reports to be submitted to the General Assembly by July 1st of each year.

The bill establishes the "Missouri Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair (Missouri CROWN) Act", which governs discriminatory practices as they relate to "protective hairstyles", as defined in the bill.

This bill specifies that no person will be subjected to discrimination based on the person's hair texture or protective hairstyle, if that protective hairstyle or texture is commonly associated with a particular race or origin, in any program or activity conducted by an educational institution that receives or benefits from "State financial assistance", as that term is defined in the Act, or that enrolls pupils who receive State student financial aid; provided, however, that such institution can require the use of hair nets or coverings or can require that hair be secured for safety purposes in any career and technical training course or class to comply with safety regulations and standards of the course or class throughout the duration of the course or class.

The provisions of this bill do not apply to an educational institution that is controlled by a religious organization if the application of such provision would not be consistent with the religious tenets of that organization.

This bill is similar to HB 746 (2025) and includes HCS for HB 284(2025).