

Arizona Antisemitism Crackdown: New Bill Targets Bias in Classrooms

Arizona lawmakers passed House Bill 2867—the Antisemitism in Education Act—with bipartisan support this week. The legislation defines antisemitism using the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) standards and establishes penalties for public school teachers who promote antisemitic behavior. It passed 16–12 in the Senate and 38–20 in the House and now heads to Governor Katie Hobbs’s desk for signature.

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The bill outlines a tiered discipline system: first offense results in a written reprimand, a second brings suspension, and a third may lead to revocation of a teaching certificate. Supporters, including Rep. Michael Way and Sen. John Kavanagh, pointed to classroom examples—such as teachers praising anti-Israel protesters—as justifying stronger enforcement tools.

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Critics, including the Arizona Education Association, oppose the bill on grounds it could chill classroom discussion and dissuade educators from working in the state. The bill permits students and parents to file complaints, which must be reviewed by education officials before progressing to civil action.

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Senate Democrats voiced concern over First Amendment issues. Sen. Analise Ortiz argued the IHRA's definition might limit discussions on foreign policy, including conflicts involving Israel.

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Governor Hobbs has not indicated whether she will sign the bill. The decision is expected within the week.

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