

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE  
2 BILL NO. 1330

By: Ritze, Reynolds, Key,  
Thompson, Faught, Tibbs and  
Schwartz of the House

3  
4 and

5 Brogdon of the Senate  
6  
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8 An Act relating to state government; providing for  
9 legislative findings; creating the Ten Commandments  
10 Monument Display Act; authorizing the placement of a  
11 monument displaying the Ten Commandments on the  
12 grounds of the Oklahoma State Capitol; authorizing  
13 the State Capitol Preservation Commission to work  
14 with certain persons in designing a monument;  
15 providing for the location for the monument;  
16 authorizing the Attorney General or Liberty Legal  
17 Institute to defend certain challenges; providing for  
18 codification; providing for noncodification; and  
19 providing an effective date.

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

21 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be  
22 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

23 The Legislature finds:

24 1. That the Ten Commandments are an important component of the  
foundation of the laws and legal system of the United States of  
America and of the State of Oklahoma;

1           2. That the courts of the United States of America and of  
2 various states frequently cite the Ten Commandments in published  
3 decisions; and

4           3. Acknowledgements of the role played by the Ten Commandments  
5 in our nation's heritage are common throughout America.

6           SECTION 2.           NEW LAW           A new section of law to be codified  
7 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 4110 of Title 74, unless there  
8 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

9           A. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Ten  
10 Commandments Monument Display Act".

11           B. The State Capitol Preservation Commission or designee is  
12 hereby authorized to permit and arrange for the placement on the  
13 State Capitol grounds of a suitable monument displaying the Ten  
14 Commandments. The Ten Commandments monument shall use the same  
15 words used on the monument at issue in *Van Orden v. Perry*, that the  
16 United States Supreme Court ruled constitutional. This monument  
17 shall be designed, constructed, and placed on the Capitol grounds by  
18 private entities at no expense to the State of Oklahoma. The State  
19 Capitol Preservation Commission or designee is authorized to assist  
20 private entities in selecting a location for the monument and  
21 arranging a suitable time for its placement.

22           C. In the event that the legality or constitutionality of the  
23 Ten Commandments monument is challenged in a court of law, the  
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1 Oklahoma Attorney General or Liberty Legal Institute is hereby  
2 authorized to prepare and present a legal defense of the monument.

3 D. The placement of this monument shall not be construed to  
4 mean that the State of Oklahoma favors any particular religion or  
5 denomination thereof over others, but rather will be placed on the  
6 Capitol grounds where there are numerous other monuments.

7 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2009.

8 Passed the House of Representatives the 11th day of March, 2009.

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Presiding Officer of the House of  
Representatives

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Passed the Senate the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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