

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Monday, February 16, 2009

Committee Substitute for  
House Bill No. 1756

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 1756 - By: MARTIN (SCOTT)  
AND KERN of the House and JOLLEY of the Senate.

An Act relating to schools; amending Section 4, Chapter 197, O.S.L. 2004 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 24-106.1), which relates to classroom displays of the United States of America motto; allowing principals and teachers to utilize certain documents and material in public schools and at events; listing certain documents and material; prohibiting school districts from limiting certain instruction because of religious references; limiting use of materials to educational purposes; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

1 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 4, Chapter 197, O.S.L. 2004 (70 O.S.  
2 Supp. 2008, Section 24-106.1), is amended to read as follows:

3 Section 24-106.1 A. Principals and teachers in each public elementary and  
4 secondary school of each school district in this state may display in each classroom,  
5 school auditorium, and school cafeteria under their supervision the following motto of the  
6 United States of America: "E PLURIBUS UNUM (Out of Many One)" and "IN GOD WE  
7 TRUST". For purposes of this ~~section~~ subsection, "classroom" means any room of a public  
8 school where instruction takes place.

9 B. Each school district in the state shall permit a principal or teacher to utilize in a  
10 public school building, classroom, or at any public school event any grade-level-

1 appropriate excerpts or portions of the documents, writings, speeches, proclamations, or  
2 records relating to the history, heritage, or foundation of the United States or the State  
3 of Oklahoma including, but not limited to, the:

4 1. Mayflower Compact;

5 2. Declaration of Independence;

6 3. Constitutions of the United States and the State of Oklahoma;

7 4. Federalist Papers;

8 5. Pledge of Allegiance;

9 6. National anthem;

10 7. Presidential records and speeches;

11 8. Acts and published records of Congress; and

12 9. United States Supreme Court decisions and records.

13 C. School districts shall not limit or restrain instruction in American or Oklahoma  
14 state history or heritage based on religious references in documents, writings, speeches,  
15 proclamations, or the materials described in subsection B of this section. These and any  
16 other materials shall be used for educational purposes only and not to establish or  
17 promote any religion.

18 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2009.

19 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public  
20 peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof  
21 this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

1 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON COMMON EDUCATION, dated 02-12-09  
2 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.