

EHB 1756

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THE STATE SENATE
Wednesday, April 1, 2009

ENGROSSED

House Bill No. 1756

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1756 - By: Martin (Scott), Kern, Nelson, Wright (John), Cooksey, Faught, Sullivan, Terrill, McDaniel (Randy), Tibbs and Wesselhoft of the House and Jolley, Stanislawski and Mazzei 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:

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

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

1 B. Each school district in the state shall permit a principal
2 or teacher to utilize in a public school building, classroom, or at
3 any public school event any grade-level-appropriate excerpts or
4 portions of the documents, writings, speeches, proclamations, or
5 records relating to the history, heritage, or foundation of the
6 United States or the State of Oklahoma including, but not limited
7 to, the:

8 1. Mayflower Compact;

9 2. Declaration of Independence;

10 3. Constitutions of the United States and the State of
11 Oklahoma;

12 4. Federalist Papers;

13 5. Pledge of Allegiance;

14 6. National anthem;

15 7. Presidential records and speeches;

16 8. Acts and published records of Congress; and

17 9. United States Supreme Court decisions and records.

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

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

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

6 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, dated 3-30-09 - DO
7 PASS, As Coauthored.