

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 HOUSE BILL 1756

By: Martin (Scott)

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5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; amending Section 4,  
8 Chapter 197, O.S.L. 2004 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section  
9 24-106.1), which relates to classroom displays of the  
10 United States of America motto; requiring school  
11 districts to establish a policy allowing students to  
12 read and study certain documents; allowing principals  
13 and teachers to use, read, and post certain documents  
14 and material in public schools and at events; listing  
15 certain documents and material; prohibiting school  
16 districts from limiting certain instruction because  
17 of religious references; limiting use of materials to  
18 educational purposes; allowing students to choose  
19 religious topics for study under certain conditions;  
20 providing an effective date; and declaring an  
21 emergency.

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

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

26 Section 24-106.1 A. Principals and teachers in each public  
27 ~~elementary and secondary school of each school district~~ in this  
28 state may display in each classroom, school auditorium, and school  
29 cafeteria under their supervision the following motto of the United

1 States of America: "E PLURIBUS UNUM (Out of Many One)" and "IN GOD  
2 WE TRUST". For purposes of this ~~section~~ subsection, "classroom"  
3 means any room of a public school where instruction takes place.

4 B. Each school district in the state shall adopt a policy, with  
5 grade-level-appropriate instructional levels, that assures that all  
6 students are encouraged, and have the opportunity, to read and study  
7 the founding documents of America that are pertinent to  
8 understanding the principles, character, and world view of America's  
9 founders including documents that contributed to the foundation or  
10 maintenance of America's representative republican form of limited  
11 government, the Bill of Rights, our free-market economic system, and  
12 patriotism. Each school district shall permit a principal or  
13 teacher to use, read, or post in a public school building,  
14 classroom, or at any public school event any excerpts or portions of  
15 the documents, writings, speeches, proclamations, or records  
16 relating to the history, heritage, or foundation of the United  
17 States or the State of Oklahoma including, but not limited to, the:

- 18 1. Mayflower Compact;
- 19 2. Declaration of Independence;
- 20 3. Constitutions of the United States and the State of  
21 Oklahoma;
- 22 4. Federalist Papers;
- 23 5. Pledge of Allegiance;
- 24 6. National anthem;

1        7. Presidential records and speeches;

2        8. Acts and published records of Congress; and

3        9. United States Supreme Court decisions and records.

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

10       D. Students may voluntarily choose to read, write, share,  
11 report, or otherwise study a topic which is religious in nature  
12 provided other students are provided with the same opportunity to  
13 freely choose a topic.

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

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

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20       52-1-6095        AM        01/02/09