

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 54th Legislature (2014)

HOUSE BILL 2317

By: Cleveland, Walker and
Condit of the House

and

Boggs of the Senate

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; authorizing a school district to educate about traditional winter celebrations; allowing staff and students to offer traditional greetings; providing certain examples; authorizing a school district to make certain displays; listing certain requirements; prohibiting inclusion of certain messages; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 24-156 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. A school district may educate students about the history of traditional winter celebrations, and allow students and district staff to offer traditional greetings regarding the celebrations, including:

1. Merry Christmas;

2. Happy Hanukkah; and

3. Happy holidays.

B. Except as provided by subsection C of this section, a school district may display on school property scenes or symbols associated with traditional winter celebrations, including a menorah or a Christmas image such as a nativity scene or Christmas tree, if the display includes a scene or symbol of:

1. More than one religion; or

2. One religion and at least one secular scene or symbol.

C. A display relating to a traditional winter celebration shall not include a message that endorses, favors, disfavors or encourages adherence to a particular religious or nonreligious faith, belief or perspective.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective September 1, 2014.

54-2-8517 SD 12/09/13