

SENATE BILL NO. 1238

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SCHROER.

5692S.011

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

AN ACT

To amend chapters 160 and 174, RSMo, by adding thereto two new sections relating to instruction on the positive impacts of religion on American history.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapters 160 and 174, RSMo, are amended by
2 adding thereto two new sections, to be known as sections
3 160.2510 and 174.805, to read as follows:

160.2510. 1. As used in this section, "public school"
2 means any school building operated by a school district and
3 any charter school established under sections 160.400 to
4 160.425.

5 2. When providing instruction on the topic of American
6 history, a teacher in a public school shall provide
7 instruction on the positive impacts of religion on American
8 history, which shall include the following historical
9 accounts:

10 (1) The authentic history of the pilgrims, including
11 the following:

12 (a) The organization of the pilgrims as a church;

13 (b) The history of the portrait of the pilgrims
14 displayed in the United States Capitol rotunda, which
15 depicts prayer, an open bible, and the inscription "God with
16 Us" on the sail;

- 17 (c) The religious implications of the Mayflower
18 Compact, which was modeled on a church covenant;
- 19 (d) The treaty with the Native Americans signed and
20 upheld by the pilgrims; and
- 21 (e) The first Thanksgiving that was observed as an act
22 of gratitude towards God;
- 23 (2) The appeals to divine power and protection
24 embedded in the Declaration of Independence;
- 25 (3) The appeal made to the biblical exodus in the
26 fight for independence;
- 27 (4) The religious background of the signers of the
28 Declaration of Independence;
- 29 (5) The influence of religious leaders like Reverend
30 John Witherspoon who signed the Declaration of Independence;
- 31 (6) The impact of the first and second great
32 awakenings on public policy;
- 33 (7) George Washington's direction regarding chaplains
34 in the army;
- 35 (8) George Washington's farewell address calling
36 religion and morality "indispensable supports" that lead to
37 political prosperity and their tributes to patriotism "great
38 pillars of human happiness" and the "firmest props of the
39 duties of men and citizens";
- 40 (9) Benjamin Franklin's appeal for prayer at the
41 constitutional convention and the hiring of chaplains that
42 followed;
- 43 (10) The influence of religion on the United States
44 Constitution, as evidenced by the exclusion of Sunday from
45 the allotted time for the president to sign or veto a bill
46 and the dating of the Constitution according to the birth of
47 Christ;

48 (11) Reverend John Leland's influence that led James
49 Madison to advocate for a bill of rights including the First
50 Amendment to the United States Constitution;

51 (12) The history of the concept of the separation of
52 church and state dating back to its religious origins with
53 Roger Williams;

54 (13) The influence and debates of Reverend John Peter
55 Gabriel Muhlenberg and his brother Reverend Frederick
56 Augustus Muhlenberg, the first Speaker of the United States
57 House of Representatives;

58 (14) The historic role of the black robe regiment;

59 (15) The nation's response to Thomas Paine's "The Age
60 of Reason", including Benjamin Franklin's suggestion that he
61 burn it, the national rejection of it, and multiple
62 responses to it including Elias Boudinot's, "The Age of
63 Revelation";

64 (16) The role of the Ten Commandments in shaping
65 American law and their presence in art and sculpture
66 embedded in the United States Supreme Court;

67 (17) How religious influence shaped civil rights and
68 the civil rights movement through men like Booker T.
69 Washington, Frederick Douglass, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,
70 and others;

71 (18) The impact of religious leaders such as
72 evangelist minister Billy Graham on the culture of this
73 nation; and

74 (19) The history of the national motto "In God We
75 Trust", dating back to the national anthem and traced
76 through its appearance on currency and the inclusion of
77 "under God" in this nation's pledge of allegiance.

174.805. When providing instruction on the topic of
2 American history, an instructor at a public institution of

3 higher education may provide instruction on the positive
4 impacts of religion on American history, which may include
5 the following historical accounts:

6 (1) The authentic history of the pilgrims, including
7 the following:

8 (a) The organization of the pilgrims as a church;

9 (b) The history of the portrait of the pilgrims
10 displayed in the United States Capitol rotunda, which
11 depicts prayer, an open bible, and the inscription "God with
12 Us" on the sail;

13 (c) The religious implications of the Mayflower
14 Compact, which was modeled on a church covenant;

15 (d) The treaty with the Native Americans signed and
16 upheld by the pilgrims; and

17 (e) The first Thanksgiving that was observed as an act
18 of gratitude towards God;

19 (2) The appeals to divine power and protection
20 embedded in the Declaration of Independence;

21 (3) The appeal made to the biblical exodus in the
22 fight for independence;

23 (4) The religious background of the signers of the
24 Declaration of Independence;

25 (5) The influence of religious leaders like Reverend
26 John Witherspoon who signed the Declaration of Independence;

27 (6) The impact of the first and second great
28 awakenings on public policy;

29 (7) George Washington's direction regarding chaplains
30 in the army;

31 (8) George Washington's farewell address calling
32 religion and morality "indispensable supports" that lead to
33 political prosperity and their tributes to patriotism "great

34 pillars of human happiness" and the "firmest props of the
35 duties of men and citizens";

36 (9) Benjamin Franklin's appeal for prayer at the
37 constitutional convention and the hiring of chaplains that
38 followed;

39 (10) The influence of religion on the United States
40 Constitution, as evidenced by the exclusion of Sunday from
41 the allotted time for the president to sign or veto a bill
42 and the dating of the Constitution according to the birth of
43 Christ;

44 (11) Reverend John Leland's influence that led James
45 Madison to advocate for a bill of rights including the First
46 Amendment to the United States Constitution;

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48 church and state dating back to its religious origins with
49 Roger Williams;

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51 Gabriel Muhlenberg and his brother Reverend Frederick
52 Augustus Muhlenberg, the first Speaker of the United States
53 House of Representatives;

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56 of Reason", including Benjamin Franklin's suggestion that he
57 burn it, the national rejection of it, and multiple
58 responses to it including Elias Boudinot's, "The Age of
59 Revelation";

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61 American law and their presence in art and sculpture
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64 the civil rights movement through men like Booker T.

65 Washington, Frederick Douglass, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,
66 and others;

67 (18) The impact of religious leaders such as
68 evangelist minister Billy Graham on the culture of this
69 nation; and

70 (19) The history of the national motto "In God We
71 Trust", dating back to the national anthem and traced
72 through its appearance on currency and the inclusion of
73 "under God" in this nation's pledge of allegiance.

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