

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 696
99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1246H.04C

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 171, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the treatment of traditional celebrations by school districts.

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

Section A. Chapter 171, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be
2 known as section 171.023, to read as follows:

**171.023. 1. A school district may educate students about the history of traditional
2 winter and spring celebrations and allow students and district staff to offer traditional
3 greetings regarding the celebrations, including but not limited to:**

- 4 **(1) Merry Christmas;**
- 5 **(2) Happy Hanukkah;**
- 6 **(3) Happy holidays; and**
- 7 **(4) Happy Easter.**

8 **2. Subject to the requirements under subsection 3 of this section, a school district
9 may display on school property scenes and symbols associated with traditional winter and
10 spring celebrations, including a menorah or a Christmas image such as a nativity scene or
11 Christmas tree, if the display includes a scene or symbol of:**

- 12 **(1) More than one religion; or**
- 13 **(2) One religion and at least one secular scene or symbol.**

14 **3. (1) A display relating to a traditional winter or spring celebration shall not
15 include a message that encourages adherence to a particular religious belief.**

16 **(2) Any display relating to a traditional winter or spring celebration shall be paid
17 for without public funds and be open to the inclusion of items offered by individuals or
18 organizations in accordance with the constitutional requirements of a limited public forum.**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

19 **(3) Any scene or symbol relating to a traditional winter or spring celebration shall**
20 **be displayed in a manner so as not to violate the Establishment Clause of the First**
21 **Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.**

✓