

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

[PERFECTED]

# HOUSE BILL NO. 267

## 100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BAKER.

0740H.01P

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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### AN ACT

To amend chapter 170, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to elective social studies courses on the Bible.

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

Section A. Chapter 170, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be  
2 known as section 170.341, to read as follows:

**170.341. 1. Any school district may offer students:**

2 **(1) An elective social studies course on the Hebrew Scriptures, the Old Testament**  
3 **of the Bible;**

4 **(2) An elective social studies course on the New Testament of the Bible; or**

5 **(3) An elective social studies course on the Hebrew Scriptures and the New**  
6 **Testament of the Bible.**

7 **2. The purpose of a course under this section is to:**

8 **(1) Teach students knowledge of biblical content, characters, poetry, and narratives**  
9 **that are prerequisites to understanding contemporary society and culture, including**  
10 **literature, art, music, mores, oratory, and public policy; and**

11 **(2) Familiarize students with, as applicable:**

12 **(a) The contents of the Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament;**

13 **(b) The history of the Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament;**

14 **(c) The literary style and structure of the Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament;**

15 **and**

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.

16           **(d) The influence of the Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament on law, history,**  
17 **government, literature, art, music, customs, morals, values, and culture.**

18           **3. A student shall not be required to use a specific translation as the sole text of the**  
19 **Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament and may use as the basic textbook a different**  
20 **translation of the Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament from that chosen by the school**  
21 **district.**

22           **4. A course offered under this section shall follow applicable law and all federal and**  
23 **state guidelines in maintaining religious neutrality and accommodating the diverse**  
24 **religious views, traditions, and perspectives of students in the school. A course offered**  
25 **under this section shall not endorse, favor, or promote, or disfavor or show hostility**  
26 **toward, any particular religion or nonreligious faith or religious perspective.**

27           **5. School districts, in complying with this section, shall not violate any provision**  
28 **of the Constitution of the United States or federal law, the Constitution of Missouri or any**  
29 **state law, or any administrative regulations of the department of elementary and secondary**  
30 **education or the United States Department of Education.**

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