

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 1345

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BAKER.

3780H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

## AN ACT

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

*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 known as section 170.341, to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**and**

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

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.

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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