

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 1345
100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

3780H.02C

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
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 American history and culture, including literature,**
10 **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**

16 **(d) The influence of the Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament on law, history,**
17 **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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