

House _____ Amendment NO. _____

Offered By _____

1 AMEND Senate Bill No. 373, Page 2, Section 161.700, Line 27, by inserting after all of said section
2 and line the following:

3
4 "170.341. 1. Any school district may offer students:

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

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

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

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

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

14 (2) Familiarize students with, as applicable:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

32
33 Further amend said bill by amending the title, enacting clause, and intersectional references
34 accordingly.

Action Taken _____ Date _____