

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 484

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BAKER.

1246H.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 offered under this section is to:**

(1) Teach students knowledge of biblical content, characters, poetry, and narratives that are prerequisites to understanding American history 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 styles and structures 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 in a course offered under this section shall not be required to use a**  
19 **specific translation as the sole text of the Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament and may**  
20 **use as the basic textbook a different translation of the Hebrew Scriptures or New**  
21 **Testament from that chosen by the school district.**

22           **4. A course offered under this section shall follow applicable law and all federal**  
23 **and 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 the state of**  
29 **Missouri or any state law, or any administrative regulations of the department of**  
30 **elementary and secondary education or the United States Department of Education.**

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