

FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**HOUSE BILL NO. 1262**  
**103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

2499H.02C

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

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**AN ACT**

To amend chapter 160, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to awareness of religious liberty in educational settings.

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

Section A. Chapter 160, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be  
2 known as section 160.2501, to read as follows:

**160.2501. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Missouri  
2 Religious Liberty in Schools Awareness Act".**

**3 2. Each public school shall post a statement containing the following or  
4 substantially similar information:**

**5 The Missouri Religious Liberty in Schools Awareness Act**  
**6 requires that students and employees of public schools that are**  
**7 operated at public expense be advised and therefore, encouraged**  
**8 regarding constitutional rights and liberties in the educational**  
**9 setting that are assured by the First Amendment to the United**  
**10 States Constitution, free from government coercion:**  
**11 For public school students, such rights and liberties include, but**  
**12 are not limited to, that a student may, in a manner that does not**  
**13 interrupt or displace the educational mission of the public school:**  
**14 Express the student's beliefs about religion to others;**  
**15 Pray or engage in religious expression or read the Bible or other**  
**16 religious texts or materials during free time including, but not**  
**17 limited to, in the classroom;**

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           **When relevant to the subject matter, express the student's beliefs**  
19           **about religion in a class assignment; and**  
20           **Form, organize, and participate or refrain from participating in,**  
21           **prayer groups, religious clubs and other religious gatherings if**  
22           **other secular groups, clubs, and gatherings are permitted.**  
23           **For public school employees, such rights and liberties include, but**  
24           **are not limited to, that an employee may, in a manner that does**  
25           **not interrupt or displace the educational mission of the public**  
26           **school:**  
27           **Respectfully discuss the employee's faith with other school**  
28           **employees;**  
29           **When relevant to the subject matter, discuss the influence of**  
30           **religion on history and culture;**  
31           **Enjoy the accommodation of the employee's religious beliefs as**  
32           **required by law;**  
33           **Sponsor student religious clubs if secular student clubs are**  
34           **sponsored; and**  
35           **Enjoy freedom from religious discrimination as provided by law.**  
36           **3. (1) The statement required to be posted under this section shall be posted in a**  
37           **prominent location in each of such public school's buildings in which the academic**  
38           **instruction of students actually and regularly occurs.**  
39           **(2) Such statement shall be posted in a similar form and manner as other**  
40           **information required by law is posted.**  
41           **4. The provisions of this section shall be construed to be consistent and in**  
42           **conjunction with section 160.2500.**

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