

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2121

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BLACK.

4304H.011

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

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

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:

3 **160.2501. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Missouri**
4 **Religious Liberty in Schools Awareness Act".**

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

7 **The Missouri Religious Liberty in Schools Awareness Act**
8 **requires that students and employees of public schools that are**
9 **operated at public expense be advised and therefore encouraged**
10 **regarding constitutional rights and liberties in the educational**
11 **setting that are assured by the First Amendment to the United**
12 **States Constitution, free from government coercion:**

13 **For public school students, such rights and liberties include, but**
14 **are not limited to, that a student may, in a manner that does not**
15 **interrupt or displace the educational mission of the public school:**

16 **Express the student's beliefs about religion to others;**

17 **Pray or engage in religious expression or read the Bible or other**
 religious texts or materials during free time including, but not
 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.**

✓