

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 1612

## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BILLINGTON.

5110H.011

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

### AN ACT

To amend chapter 171, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the Ten Commandments in schools.

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

Section A. Chapter 171, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 171.022, to read as follows:

**171.022. 1. As used in this section, "Ten Commandments" means the following text:**

**"The Ten Commandments**

**I AM the LORD thy God.**

**Thou shalt have no other gods before me.**

**Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven images.**

**Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.**

**Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.**

**Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.**

**Thou shalt not kill.**

**Thou shalt not commit adultery.**

**Thou shalt not steal.**

**Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.**

**Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his cattle, nor anything that is thy neighbor's."**

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           **2. Beginning on January 1, 2027, each school district's school board and charter**  
19 **school's governing board shall display the Ten Commandments in each building and**  
20 **classroom under the school board's or governing board's jurisdiction, subject to at least**  
21 **the following requirements:**

22           **(1) The nature of such display shall be determined by each school board and**  
23 **governing board;**

24           **(2) Such display shall be composed of, at a minimum, a poster or framed**  
25 **document that is at least eleven inches by fourteen inches; and**

26           **(3) The text of the Ten Commandments shall be the central focus of the poster or**  
27 **framed document and shall be printed in a large, easily readable font.**

28           **3. (1) A school board or governing board may spend the board's moneys or**  
29 **donated moneys to purchase the displays.**

30           **(2) A school board or governing board may accept donated displays.**

31           **(3) This section shall not be construed to require a school board or governing**  
32 **board to spend the board's moneys to purchase displays.**

33           **4. The state board of education may promulgate all necessary rules and**  
34 **regulations for the administration of this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that**  
35 **term is defined in section 536.010, that is created under the authority delegated in this**  
36 **section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to all of the**  
37 **provisions of chapter 536 and, if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter**  
38 **536 are nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly**  
39 **pursuant to chapter 536 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul**  
40 **a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking authority**  
41 **and any rule proposed or adopted after the effective date of this section shall be invalid**  
42 **and void.**

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