

SENATE BILL NO. 114

INTRODUCED BY B. PHALEN, T. MANZELLA, J. FULLER, N. NICOL, C. GLIMM, J. SCHILLINGER, L.

DEMING, F. NAVE, B. USHER, D. LENZ, T. TEZAK

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THE DISPLAY OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS AND THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM IN EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING AND CLASSROOM; PROVIDING SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE TEXT AND THE DISPLAY OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS AND THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM; AUTHORIZING A DISTRICT TO SPEND ITS OWN FUNDS OR DONATED FUNDS TO PROVIDE THE DISPLAYS OR TO ACCEPT DONATED DISPLAYS ; EXCLUDING THE DISPLAY OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS AND THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM FROM THE PROHIBITION AGAINST DISTRIBUTION OF SECTARIAN OR DENOMINATIONAL PUBLICATIONS IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL; AMENDING SECTION 20-7-112, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Required display of ten commandments and seven principles of unitarian universalism. (1) The trustees of a district shall display the ten commandments and the seven principles of unitarian universalism in each school building and in each classroom of each school in the district.

(2) The ten commandments and the seven principles of unitarian universalism must each be displayed on a poster or framed document that is a minimum size of 11 inches by 14 inches. The text of the ten commandments and the seven principles of unitarian universalism must be the central focus of the poster or framed document and must be printed in a large, easily readable font.

(3) The text of the ten commandments display must read as follows:

"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.

Amendment - 2nd Reading-yellow - Requested by: Mary Ann Dunwell - (S) Committee of the Whole

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Jaret Coles,

SB0114.001.002

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

2 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

3 Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God

4 giveth thee.

5 Thou shalt not kill.

6 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

7 Thou shalt not steal.

8 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

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

11 (4) The text of the seven principles of unitarian universalism display must read as follows:

12 "THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

13 The inherent worth and dignity of every person

14 Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations

15 Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth

16 A free and responsible search for truth and meaning

17 The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society

18 at large

19 The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all

20 Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."

21 (4)(5) A school district is authorized but not required to spend its funds to purchase displays. A school
22 district may accept donated funds to purchase displays and may accept donated displays.

23

24 **Section 2.** Section 20-7-112, MCA, is amended to read:

25 **"20-7-112. Sectarian publications prohibited -- religious materials allowed -- prayer permitted.**

26 (1) (a) A publication of a sectarian or denominational character may not be distributed in any school. Instruction
27 may not be given advocating sectarian or denominational doctrines.

Amendment - 2nd Reading-yellow - Requested by: Mary Ann Dunwell - (S) Committee of the Whole

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1 (b) This subsection (1) does not prohibit:

2 (i) a school library from including the Bible or other religious material having cultural, historical, or
3 educational significance;

4 (ii) the display of the ~~ten commandments~~ or the seven principles of unitarian universalism in each
5 classroom as required by [section 1];

6 ~~(ii)(iii)~~ a ~~pupil-student~~ from reading from the Bible or other religious material during free reading time;

7 or

8 ~~(iii)(iv)~~ a student from initiating or participating in a conversation about religion, religious beliefs, or
9 religious practices- with another student or a teacher.

10 (c) If a school, class, or course has requirements for self-selected reading, a ~~pupil-student~~ must be
11 allowed to read from the Bible or other religious material to meet those requirements.

12 (2) Prayer is permitted in a school, on school grounds, and at school-sponsored events, but a
13 person may not be compelled to pray. The school day may begin with a prayer."
14

15 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
16 integral part of Title 20, chapter 7, part 1, and the provisions of Title 20, chapter 7, part 1, apply to [section 1].
17

18 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2025.

19 - END -