

SENATE BILL NO. 114

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THE DISPLAY OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING AND CLASSROOM; PROVIDING SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE TEXT AND THE DISPLAY OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS; 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 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 universal declaration of human rights. (1) The trustees of a district shall display the ten commandments and the universal declaration of human rights from the united nations in each school building and in each classroom of each school in the district.

(2) The ten commandments and the universal declaration of human rights 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 universal declaration of human rights 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.

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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 universal declaration of human rights must read as follows:

12 "Universal Declaration of Human Rights

13 Preamble

14 Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of
15 the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

16 Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have
17 outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of
18 speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the
19 common people,

20 Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion
21 against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

22 Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

23 Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental
24 human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have
25 determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

26 Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations,
27 the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

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1 Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the
2 full realization of this pledge,

3 Now, therefore,

4 The General Assembly, Proclaims this Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard
5 of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society,
6 keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these
7 rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and
8 effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the
9 peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

10 Article I

11 All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and
12 conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

13 Article 2

14 Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any
15 kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property,
16 birth or other status.

17 Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international
18 status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing
19 or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

20 Article 3

21 Everyone has the right to life, liberty and the security of person.

22 Article 4

23 No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their
24 forms.

25 Article 5

26 No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

27 Article 6

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1 Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

2 Article 7

3 All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All
4 are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any
5 incitement to such discrimination.

6 Article 8

7 Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the
8 fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

9 Article 9

10 No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

11 Article 10

12 Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal,
13 in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

14 Article 11

15 1. Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty
16 according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.

17 2. No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not
18 constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a
19 heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

20 Article 12

21 No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence,
22 nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such
23 interference or attacks.

24 Article 13

25 1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State.

26 2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

27 Article 14

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1 1. Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

2 2. This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes

3 or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

4 Article 15

5 1. Everyone has the right to a nationality.

6 2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

7 Article 16

8 1. Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to
9 marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its
10 dissolution.

11 2. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

12 3. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society
13 and the State.

14 Article 17

15 1. Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.

16 2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

17 Article 18

18 Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to
19 change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to
20 manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

21 Article 19

22 Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold
23 opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and
24 regardless of frontiers.

25 Article 20

26 1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

27 2. No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

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Article 21

1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

2. Everyone has the right to equal access to public service in his country.

3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Article 22

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

Article 23

1. Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.

2. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.

3. Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.

4. Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

Article 24

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

Article 25

1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in

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circumstances beyond his control.

2. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

Article 26

1. Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

2. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

3. Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Article 27

1. Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

2. Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

Article 28

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

Article 29

1. Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.

2. In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.

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1 3. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of
2 the United Nations.

3 Article 30

4 Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to
5 engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth
6 herein."

7 ~~(4)(5)~~ A school district is authorized but not required to spend its funds to purchase displays. A school
8 district may accept donated funds to purchase displays and may accept donated displays.

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

11 **"20-7-112. Sectarian publications prohibited -- religious materials allowed -- prayer permitted.**

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

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

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

17 (ii) the display of the ten commandments in each classroom as required by [section 1];

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

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

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

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

27 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an

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1 integral part of Title 20, chapter 7, part 1, and the provisions of Title 20, chapter 7, part 1, apply to [section 1].

2

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

4 - END -

AMENDED