

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 71

BY REPRESENTATIVES HORTON AND EDMONSTON AND SENATORS BASS AND HODGES

SCHOOLS: Requires the display of the Ten Commandments in public schools

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:2122 and 3996(B)(82), relative to public elementary, secondary, and  
3 postsecondary schools; to require display of the Ten Commandments in each  
4 classroom; to provide relative to the use of public funds for this purpose; to provide  
5 for applicability to charter schools; to provide for an effective date; and to provide  
6 for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:2122 and 3996(B)(82) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §2122. Ten Commandments; displays

10 A.(1) Each public school governing authority shall display the Ten  
11 Commandments in each building it uses and classroom in each school under its  
12 jurisdiction. The nature of the display shall be determined by each governing  
13 authority with a minimum requirement that the Ten Commandments shall be  
14 displayed on a poster or framed document that is at least eleven inches by fourteen  
15 inches. The text of the Ten Commandments shall be the central focus of the poster  
16 or framed document and shall be printed in a large, easily readable font.

17 (2) The text shall read as follows:

18 "The Ten Commandments

19 I AM the LORD thy God.

20 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

21 Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven images.

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

4                                   thy God 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.

10 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his

11                                   cattle, nor anything that is thy neighbor's."

12                   (3) This Subsection does not require a public school governing authority to  
13 spend its funds to purchase displays. A governing authority may spend its funds or  
14 donated funds to purchase the displays and may accept donated displays.

15                   (4) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall adopt  
16 rules and regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to ensure  
17 the proper implementation of this Section.

18                   B.(1) Each public postsecondary education management board shall require  
19 each institution under its jurisdiction to display the Ten Commandments in each  
20 classroom on the institution's campus. At a minimum, the Ten Commandments shall  
21 be displayed on a poster or framed document that is at least eleven inches by  
22 fourteen inches. The text of the Ten Commandments shall be the central focus of the  
23 poster or framed document and shall be printed in a large, easily readable font.

24                   (2) The text shall read as provided in Paragraph (A)(2) of this Section.

25                   (3) This Subsection does not require a public postsecondary education  
26 management board or a public postsecondary education institution to spend its funds  
27 to purchase such displays. An institution or management board may spend its funds  
28 or donated funds to purchase such displays and may accept donated displays.

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- (1) Be displayed on a poster or framed document that is at least 11 inches by 14 inches.
- (2) Be the central focus of the poster or framed document.
- (3) Be printed in a large, easily readable font.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:2122 and 3996(B)(82))