Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 876

BY REPRESENTATIVES SEABAUGH, ARMES, ARNOLD, BARRAS, BERTHELOT, BROADWATER, BROWN, BURFORD, HENRY BURNS, CARMODY, CHANEY, CONNICK, COX, CROMER, GAROFALO, GUILLORY, GUINN, HARRIS, HARRISON, HENRY, HILL, HODGES, HOFFMANN, HOLLIS, HOWARD, HUNTER, IVEY, JEFFERSON, KLECKLEY, LEOPOLD, LOPINTO, LORUSSO, JAY MORRIS, NORTON, PYLANT, REYNOLDS, RICHARD, SCHRODER, STOKES, WHITNEY, AND WILLMOTT AND SENATOR CROWE

1   AN ACT

2   To enact R.S. 17:2118, relative to the recognition of traditional winter celebrations in public

3   schools; to authorize school boards to allow certain greetings and displays; to

4   provide limitations; and to provide for related matters.

5   Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6   Section 1. R.S. 17:2118 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7   §2118. Celebrations in winter

8   A. A school board may educate students about the history of traditional

9   celebrations in winter and allow students and district staff to offer traditional

10   greetings regarding the celebrations, including but not limited to:

11   (1) Merry Christmas.

12   (2) Happy Hanukkah.

13   (3) Happy holidays.

14   (4) Happy Kwanzaa.

15   B. Except as provided by Subsection C of this Section, a school board may

16   display on school property scenes or symbols associated with traditional celebrations

17   in winter, including a menorah or a Christmas image such as a nativity scene or

18   Christmas tree, if the display includes a scene or symbol of at least one of the

19   following:

20   (1) More than one religion.

1   (2) One religion and at least one secular scene or symbol.

2   C. A display relating to a traditional celebration may not include a message

3   that encourages adherence to a particular religious belief.

_____
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

_____
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

_____
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.