

# ACT No. 215

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 68

BY REPRESENTATIVES HODGES, ADAMS, AMEDEE, BUTLER, CARRIER, COX, CREWS, DESHOTEL, EDMONDS, EDMONSTON, FIRMENT, FISHER, GAROFALO, HARRIS, HORTON, MCFARLAND, MIGUEZ, MOORE, CHARLES OWEN, SCHAMERHORN, SEABAUGH, SELDERS, AND THOMPSON

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:282 and 3996(B)(75), relative to curricula; to authorize public school  
3 governing authorities to offer an elective high school course in the history and  
4 literature of the Bible; to provide for course purposes and parameters; to require the  
5 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to adopt rules for  
6 implementation; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "History and Literature  
9 of the Bible Act".

10 Section 2. R.S. 17:282 and 3996(B)(75) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §282. History and literature of the Bible; high schools

12 A. Each public school governing authority may offer an elective high school  
13 course in the history and literature of the Bible for the purposes of:

14 (1) Providing students with knowledge of biblical content, characters, poetry,  
15 and narratives that are prerequisites to understanding contemporary society and  
16 culture, including literature, art, music, mores, oratory, and public policy.

17 (2) Familiarizing students with the content, history, and structure of the Bible  
18 and the influence of the Bible on law, history, government, literature, art, music,  
19 customs, morals, values, and culture.

20 B. If such a course is offered:

21 (1) No student shall be required to use a particular translation of the Bible  
22 as the textbook for the course.

23 (2) The course shall maintain religious neutrality and accommodate diverse  
24 religious views, traditions, and perspectives.

