

1-1 By: King, Middleton S.B. No. 1515
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 3, 2023; March 16, 2023, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Education; April 17, 2023,
 1-4 reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 2;
 1-5 April 17, 2023, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11			X	
1-12	X			
1-13			X	
1-14		X		
1-15		X		
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18	X			
1-19	X			
1-20	X			

1-21 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-22 AN ACT

1-23 relating to the display of the Ten Commandments in public schools.
 1-24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
 1-25 SECTION 1. Chapter 1, Education Code, is amended by adding
 1-26 Section 1.0041 to read as follows:
 1-27 Sec. 1.0041. DISPLAY OF TEN COMMANDMENTS. (a) A public
 1-28 elementary or secondary school shall display in a conspicuous place
 1-29 in each classroom of the school a durable poster or framed copy of
 1-30 the Ten Commandments that meets the requirements of Subsection (b).
 1-31 (b) A poster or framed copy of the Ten Commandments
 1-32 described by Subsection (a) must:
 1-33 (1) include the text of the Ten Commandments as
 1-34 provided by Subsection (c) in a size and typeface that is legible to
 1-35 a person with average vision from anywhere in the classroom in which
 1-36 the poster or framed copy is displayed; and
 1-37 (2) be at least 16 inches wide and 20 inches tall.
 1-38 (c) The text of the poster or framed copy of the Ten
 1-39 Commandments described by Subsection (a) must read as follows:
 1-40 "The Ten Commandments
 1-41 I AM the LORD thy God.
 1-42 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
 1-43 Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven images.
 1-44 Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.
 1-45 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
 1-46 Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the
 1-47 land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.
 1-48 Thou shalt not kill.
 1-49 Thou shalt not commit adultery.
 1-50 Thou shalt not steal.
 1-51 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
 1-52 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house.
 1-53 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor
 1-54 his maidservant, nor his cattle, nor anything that is thy
 1-55 neighbor's."
 1-56 (d) A public elementary or secondary school in which each
 1-57 classroom does not include a poster or framed copy of the Ten
 1-58 Commandments as required by Subsection (a) must:
 1-59 (1) accept any offer of a privately donated poster or
 1-60 framed copy of the Ten Commandments provided that the poster or
 1-61 copy:

2-1 (A) meets the requirements of Subsection (b); and
2-2 (B) does not contain any additional content; and
2-3 (2) display the poster or framed copy as specified in
2-4 Subsection (a).

2-5 (e) If a public elementary or secondary school has a poster
2-6 or framed copy of the Ten Commandments in each classroom that does
2-7 not meet the requirements of Subsection (b), the school may replace
2-8 the posters or copies with posters or copies that meet the
2-9 requirements of Subsection (b) using public funds or by accepting a
2-10 private donation.

2-11 (f) A public elementary or secondary school must offer a
2-12 poster or framed copy of the Ten Commandments described by
2-13 Subsection (a) in the school's possession that is not needed for
2-14 display in a classroom as a donation to another public elementary or
2-15 secondary school.

2-16 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2023-2024
2-17 school year.

2-18 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-19 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-20 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-21 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-22 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

2-23 * * * * *