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.

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(3) The course shall not endorse, promote, favor, disfavor, or show hostility toward any particular religion or any nonreligious perspective.

C. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall adopt rules in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act for the implementation of this Section.

D. In carrying out the provisions of this Section, neither the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education nor any public school governing authority shall violate any provision of the United States Constitution or any federal law, the Constitution of Louisiana or any state law, or any regulation of the United States

Department of Education.

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§3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

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B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

21 * * *

(75) Elective course on the history and literature of the Bible, R.S. 17:282.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: