

By: Jennings

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 310  
(As Passed the House)

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO DISPLAY THE  
2 TEN COMMANDMENTS IN CLASSROOMS AND OTHER AREAS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS;  
3 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

5 SECTION 1. (1) The Legislature finds the following:

6 (a) The Declaration of Independence declares that  
7 governments are instituted to secure certain unalienable rights,  
8 including life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, with which  
9 all human beings are endowed by their Creator and to which they  
10 are entitled by the laws of nature and of nature's God.

11 (b) The organic laws of the United States Code and the  
12 constitutions of every state, using various expressions, recognize  
13 God as the source of the blessings of liberty.

14 (c) The First Amendment to the Constitution of the  
15 United States secures rights against laws respecting an  
16 establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise  
17 thereof.

18 (d) The Tenth Amendment reserves to the states,  
19 respectively, the powers not delegated to the United States  
20 government nor prohibited to the states.

21 (e) House Resolution 4154 of the One Hundred Fifth  
22 Congress of the United States provides that the power to display  
23 the Ten Commandments on or within property owned or administered  
24 by a state is declared to be among the powers reserved to the  
25 states.

26 (f) The Holy Bible contains many important historic

27 facts concerning the progression of the human race that should be  
28 imparted to pupils for a complete and well-rounded education.

29 (2) The school board of a local school district may  
30 authorize the display of the Ten Commandments in classrooms and in  
31 other public areas of school buildings and facilities.

32 (3) The Holy Bible may be used as a teaching aid, provided  
33 that it is not used to advocate the practice of religion or any  
34 particular religious belief.

35 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
36 and after July 1, 2000.