

By: Clark

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1029

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO INCLUDE AN
2 ACADEMIC BIBLE COURSE IN THEIR CURRICULUM; AND FOR RELATED
3 PURPOSES.

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

5 SECTION 1. The school board of a local school district, in
6 its discretion, may authorize the schools in that district to
7 include in their curriculum an academic Bible course designed to
8 teach students about the Bible. The instruction in any Bible
9 course offered in the public schools must be objective,
10 nonjudgmental, academic, neutral, balanced and fair and may not be
11 sectarian, proselytizing or advocating the practice of religion or
12 any particular religious belief. School districts authorizing a
13 Bible course shall take such steps as may be necessary to ensure
14 that teachers of the Bible course understand the distinction
15 between advocacy, proselytizing and the practice of religion and
16 teaching about the Bible in an objective, nonjudgmental, academic,
17 neutral, balanced and fair manner. The participation of students
18 in any academic Bible course offered in the public schools must be
19 voluntary.

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