

By: Representative Chism

To: Education; Constitution

HOUSE BILL NO. 1511

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-13-163, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO REQUIRE PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO DISPLAY
3 THE MOTTO OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN EACH CLASSROOM,
4 SCHOOL AUDITORIUM AND CAFETERIA; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

6 SECTION 1. Section 37-13-163, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 37-13-163. (1) Any teacher, administrator, school council
9 or local school board in any public school district in this state
10 may post in a public school building, classroom or at any school
11 event or read from any historical document or writing relating to
12 the founding of the United States of America or this state, or
13 both, notwithstanding the fact that such materials may include
14 religious quotations, references or illustrations. There shall be
15 no content-based censorship of American or Mississippi History,
16 heritage or culture based on any religious references contained in
17 such documents, writings or records.

18 (2) Principals and teachers in each public elementary and
19 secondary school of each school district in this state shall
20 display on an appropriately framed background, with minimum
21 dimensions of eleven (11) inches by fourteen (14) inches, the
22 following motto of the United States of America in each classroom,
23 school auditorium and school cafeteria under the supervision of
24 the principal or teacher: "IN GOD WE TRUST." For purposes of
25 this subsection, the term, "classroom" means any room of a public
26 school where instruction takes place.

27 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
28 and after July 1, 2001.