

By: Senator(s) Nunnelee, Jordan, Frazier,  
 King, Carmichael, Hyde-Smith, Chamberlin,  
 Moffatt, Gollott, Gordon, Dickerson, Cuevas,  
 Burton, Michel, Kirby, Browning, White  
 (29th), Furniss, Carlton, Hewes, Chaney,  
 Scoper, Little, Ross, Thames, Hamilton, White (5th), Canon, Farris,  
 Jackson, Posey, Lee, Harvey, Robertson, Simmons, Stogner, Turner,  
 Smith, Minor, Horhn, Walls, Johnson (19th), Mettetal

To: Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2576

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

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

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

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 12 event or read from any historical document or writing relating to  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

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

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