

By: Representatives Aldridge, Janus

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 938

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-13-161, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO AUTHORIZE PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES AND STUDENTS TO USE THE
3 GREETING "MERRY CHRISTMAS"; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-13-161, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
6 amended as follows:

7 37-13-161. (1) Nothing in this code shall be construed to
8 prevent any local school board, in its discretion, from allowing
9 references to religion or references to or the use of religious
10 literature, history, art, music or other things having a religious
11 significance in the public schools of such school district, when
12 such references or uses do not constitute aid to any religious
13 sect or sectarian purpose and when such references or uses are
14 incidental to or illustrative of matters properly included in the
15 course of study.

16 (2) In accordance with the state's declaration of Christmas
17 Day as a legal holiday under Section 3-3-7, employees and students
18 of the public schools in this state may use, in writing and
19 orally, the traditional holiday greeting "Merry Christmas."

20 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
21 and after July 1, 2006.