

By: Senator(s) Rhodes

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2531

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DISPLAY OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS IN ALL
2 PUBLIC SCHOOL CLASSROOMS; TO ESTABLISH PARAMETERS FOR THE DISPLAY;
3 TO PROVIDE GUIDELINES FOR ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR SUCH DISPLAYS;
4 TO IDENTIFY ADDITIONAL HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DOCUMENTS THAT MAY
5 BE INCLUDED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TEN COMMANDMENTS; AND FOR
6 RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** (1) The Legislature finds that the Ten
9 Commandments represent a key part of the historical and moral
10 foundation of the legal and educational traditions of the United
11 States. These values have significantly influenced the
12 development of law and government, and their display in public
13 institutions is intended to serve an educational purpose in line
14 with American history.

15 (2) (a) Effective January 1, 2026, all public school
16 classrooms in the State of Mississippi, from kindergarten through
17 twelfth (12th) grade, shall prominently display the Ten
18 Commandments.

19 (b) The display must meet the following criteria:



(i) The Ten Commandments shall be presented on a poster or framed document of at least eleven (11) inches by fourteen (14) inches;

(ii) The text shall be in a large, legible font; and

(iii) Each display shall be accompanied by a four-paragraph context statement explaining the historical role of the Ten Commandments in American public education, which shall be provided by the Mississippi Department of Education.

(3) No public funds shall be used to create or maintain the displays. Schools may accept donations of posters, frames or monetary gifts to support the displays. Such donations must comply with all applicable state regulations.

(4) Public schools may choose to display other historically significant documents in conjunction with the Ten Commandments, including:

(a) The Mayflower Compact;

(b) The Declaration of Independence; and

(c) The Northwest Ordinance of 1787.

(5) If any provision in this section is found unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions shall remain in effect.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

