

SENATE BILL NO. 2

INTRODUCED BY LAIBLE

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ~~ENCOURAGING~~ RECOGNIZING THE AUTHORITY OF STATE
5 AGENCIES AND UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO EXERCISE THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY
6 TO DISPLAY THE NATIONAL MOTTO AND OTHER HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS IN OR ON PUBLIC
7 BUILDINGS OR ON STATE LAND; PROHIBITING THE CENSORSHIP OF AMERICAN HISTORY OR
8 HERITAGE BASED ON RELIGIOUS REFERENCES IN WRITINGS, DOCUMENTS, OR RECORDS;
9 PROHIBITING THE SELECTION OF WRITINGS, DOCUMENTS, OR MATERIAL FOR DISPLAY IN ORDER
10 TO ADVANCE A PARTICULAR RELIGIOUS, PARTISAN, OR SECTARIAN PURPOSE; AND PROVIDING AN
11 IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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15 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Display of historical writings or documents in or on public buildings
16 or on state land encouraged -- definitions. (1) ~~Except as provided in subsection (3), the legislature~~
17 encourages each SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (3), A state agency or unit of local government to
18 exercise its constitutional right to MAY display the national motto, "in God we trust", as adopted by congress in
19 1998 (36 U.S.C. 302), in or on public buildings or state-owned land occupied by a state agency or unit of local
20 government. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE USE OF THE WORD "GOD" IS NOT INTENDED TO FURTHER THE
21 ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY SPECIFIC RELIGION OR SET OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS OR TO DISSUADE THE FREE EXERCISE OF ANY
22 RELIGION OR SET OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.

23 (2) In addition to the national motto, the legislature encourages the display of other historical documents
24 in or on public buildings and state-owned land, including but not limited to:

- 25 (a) the Declaration of Independence;
- 26 (b) the United States constitution;
- 27 (c) the pledge of allegiance;
- 28 (d) the national anthem;
- 29 (e) the Mayflower Compact;
- 30 (f) the writings, speeches, documents, and proclamations of the founders and the presidents of the

1 United States;

2 (g) writings from United States supreme court decisions;

3 (h) organic documents from the precolonial, colonial, revolutionary, federalist, and postfederalist eras;

4 (i) acts of the United States congress, including the published text of the Congressional Record;

5 (j) United States treaties; and

6 (k) any other writings, documents, or proclamations that are permanently displayed in a historic context

7 in the United States capitol.

8 (3) The content of any writing, document, or record described in subsection (2) may not be ~~eensured~~

9 CENSORED solely because the writing, document, or record contains religious references, nor may any writings,

10 documents, or material be selected for display in order to advance a particular religious, partisan, or sectarian

11 purpose.

12 (4) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

13 (a) "Local government" has the meaning provided in 1-2-116.

14 (b) "State agency" has the meaning provided in 1-2-116.

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16 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an

17 integral part of Title 1, chapter 1, part 5, and the provisions of Title 1, chapter 1, part 5, apply to [section 1].

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19 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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