

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2071 Session of  
1995

INTRODUCED BY STERN, WOGAN, GORDNER, FLEAGLE, FAIRCHILD,  
BELARDI, LYNCH, CLYMER, NICKOL, BIRMELIN, TRUE, SATHER,  
HERSHEY, SAYLOR, HENNESSEY, LEH, SCHRODER, FARGO, GEIST,  
MASLAND, ROHRER, E. Z. TAYLOR, EGOLF, ARMSTRONG, BAKER AND  
TRELLO, OCTOBER 4, 1995

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, OCTOBER 4, 1995

AN ACT

1 Providing for the use of certain historical writings, documents  
2 and records in public schools and during public school  
3 events; and prohibiting censorship based on religious or  
4 other references in certain historical writings, documents  
5 and records.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Use of historical writings, documents and records  
9 with religious references in public schools.

10 Local school boards may allow and encourage any teacher or  
11 administrator in a public school district of this Commonwealth  
12 to read or post in a public school building or classroom, or  
13 during any school-sponsored or school-related event, any  
14 excerpts or portions of:

- 15 (1) The Preamble to the Constitution of Pennsylvania.  
16 (2) The Declaration of Independence.  
17 (3) The United States Constitution.  
18 (4) The Mayflower Compact.

1           (5) The national motto.

2           (6) The National Anthem.

3           (7) The Pledge of Allegiance.

4           (8) The writings, speeches, documents and proclamations  
5 of the founding fathers and Presidents of the United States.

6           (9) Organic documents from the pre-Colonial, Colonial,  
7 Revolutionary, Federalist and post-Federalist eras.

8           (10) United States Supreme Court decisions.

9           (11) Acts of the United States Congress, including the  
10 published text of the Congressional Record.

11 There shall be no content-based censorship of American history  
12 or heritage in this Commonwealth based on religious or other  
13 references in these writings, documents and records.

14 Section 2. Promulgation.

15       Upon the effective date of this act, a copy of this act shall  
16 be promulgated to all school districts in this Commonwealth by  
17 the Department of Education, whereupon district superintendents  
18 then shall promulgate it to all school personnel.

19 Section 3. Effective date.

20       This act shall take effect in 60 days.