

# An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE  
BILL NO. 1756

By: Martin (Scott), Kern,  
Nelson, Wright (John),  
Cooksey, Faught, Sullivan,  
Terrill, McDaniel (Randy),  
Tibbs and Wesselhoft of the  
House

and

Jolley, Stanislawski,  
Mazzei, Brogdon, Newberry  
and Russell of the Senate

An Act relating to schools; amending Section 4, Chapter 197, O.S.L. 2004 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 24-106.1), which relates to classroom displays of the United States of America motto; allowing principals and teachers to utilize certain documents and material in public schools and at events; listing certain documents and material; prohibiting school districts from limiting certain instruction because of religious references; limiting use of materials to educational purposes; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 4, Chapter 197, O.S.L. 2004 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 24-106.1), is amended to read as follows:

Section 24-106.1 A. Principals and teachers in each public ~~elementary and secondary~~ school of each school district in this state may display in each classroom, school auditorium, and school cafeteria under their supervision the following motto of the United States of America: "E PLURIBUS UNUM (Out of Many One)" and "IN GOD

WE TRUST". For purposes of this ~~section~~ subsection, "classroom" means any room of a public school where instruction takes place.

B. Each school district in the state shall permit a principal or teacher to utilize in a public school building, classroom, or at any public school event any grade-level-appropriate excerpts or portions of the documents, writings, speeches, proclamations, or records relating to the history, heritage, or foundation of the United States or the State of Oklahoma including, but not limited to, the:

1. Mayflower Compact;
2. Declaration of Independence;
3. Constitutions of the United States and the State of Oklahoma;
4. Federalist Papers;
5. Pledge of Allegiance;
6. National anthem;
7. Presidential records and speeches;
8. Acts and published records of Congress; and
9. United States Supreme Court decisions and records.

C. School districts shall not limit or restrain instruction in American or Oklahoma state history or heritage based on religious references in documents, writings, speeches, proclamations, or the materials described in subsection B of this section. These and any other materials shall be used for educational purposes only and not to establish or promote any religion.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2009.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the House of Representatives the 25th day of February, 2009.

Paul Wessellhoff  
Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 15th day of April, 2009.

Arthur S. [Signature]  
Presiding Officer of the Senate

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

Received by the Governor this 20<sup>th</sup>  
day of April, 2009,  
at 3:07 o'clock P M.

By: [Signature]

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma the 24<sup>th</sup> day of  
April, 2009, at 6:07 o'clock P M.

[Signature]  
Governor of the State of Oklahoma

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Received by the Secretary of State this  
25<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2009,  
at 11:10 o'clock A.M.

By: M. [Signature]