

1 SB18
2 158004-3
3 By Senators Allen, Fielding, Hightower, Marsh, Waggoner,
4 Glover, Reed and Orr
5 RFD: Judiciary
6 First Read: 14-JAN-14
7 PFD: 08/21/2013

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4 ENGROSSED

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7 A BILL
8 TO BE ENTITLED
9 AN ACT

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11 To allow school districts to educate students about
12 the history of traditional winter celebrations; to permit
13 students and district staff to offer traditional oral or
14 written greetings regarding the celebrations and to wear
15 clothing or apparel that contain traditional winter
16 celebratory greetings or acknowledgments; and to permit
17 students and district staff to conduct or display traditional
18 holiday scenes or symbols, concerts, plays, songs or other
19 social events, as long as such displays or activities do not
20 promote or endorse adherence to a particular religion or
21 religious belief.

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

23 Section 1. (a) Each school district is permitted to
24 educate students about the history of traditional winter
25 celebrations and shall allow students and district staff to
26 offer traditional oral or written greetings regarding the

1 celebrations, including, but not limited to, any of the
2 following:

3 (1) Merry Christmas.

4 (2) Happy Hanukkah.

5 (3) Happy holidays.

6 (b) Each school district shall allow students and
7 district staff, as an educational activity regarding the
8 history of traditional winter celebrations, to organize and
9 otherwise put on traditional holiday activities, such as
10 concerts, plays, songs or other social events, as long as such
11 activities do not promote or endorse adherence to a particular
12 religion or religious belief.

13 (c) A school district may temporarily permit a
14 display on school property of scenes or symbols associated
15 with traditional winter celebrations, including, but not
16 limited to a menorah or a Christmas image such as a nativity
17 scene, a holly wreath, a Christmas tree, a Santa Clause, or a
18 snowman, if the display fairly represents the various aspects
19 of the historical and traditional winter celebrations.

20 (d) An activity provided for by subsection (b) or a
21 display provided for by subsection (c) shall not include a
22 message that encourages or endorses adherence to a particular
23 religion or religious belief.

24 (e) Any school district allowing or putting on an
25 activity provided for by subsection (b) or temporarily
26 displaying or permitting a display as provided for by
27 subsection (c) shall include with the activity or display a

1 disclaimer that such activity or display is not intended to
2 represent an endorsement of any particular religion or
3 religious belief by the school district.

4 (f) As used herein, the term "school district" shall
5 include any public school within a school district.

6 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
7 first day of the third month following its passage and
8 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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Senate

Read for the first time and referred to the Senate
committee on Judiciary..... 14-JAN-14

Read for the second time and placed on the calen-
dar with 1 substitute and 1 amendment 06-FEB-14

Read for the third time and passed as amended 13-FEB-14

Patrick Harris
Secretary