

1 HB549  
2 180894-1  
3 By Representatives Butler, Nordgren, Whorton (R), Ledbetter,  
4 Rich, Farley, Mooney, Hanes, Williams (JW) and Harbison  
5 RFD: Education Policy  
6 First Read: 20-APR-17

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8 SYNOPSIS: Existing law does not expressly allow a  
9 school district to educate students about the  
10 history of traditional winter celebrations and  
11 allow students and district staff to offer  
12 traditional greetings regarding the celebrations.

13 This bill would allow each school district  
14 to educate students about the history of  
15 traditional winter celebrations and allow students  
16 and district staff to offer traditional greetings  
17 regarding the celebrations.

18  
19 A BILL  
20 TO BE ENTITLED  
21 AN ACT  
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23 To allow school districts to educate students about  
24 the history of traditional winter celebrations and allow  
25 students and district staff to offer traditional greetings  
26 regarding the celebrations.

27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

1                   Section 1. (a) Each school district may educate  
2 students about the history of traditional winter celebrations  
3 and allow students and district staff to offer traditional  
4 greetings regarding the celebrations, including, but not  
5 limited to, any of the following:

6                   (1) Merry Christmas.

7                   (2) Happy Hanukkah.

8                   (3) Happy holidays.

9                   (b) Except as provided by subsection (c), a school  
10 district may display on school property scenes or symbols  
11 associated with traditional winter celebrations, including a  
12 menorah or a Christmas image such as a nativity scene or  
13 Christmas tree, if the display includes a scene or symbol of  
14 one or more of the following:

15                   (1) More than one religion.

16                   (2) One religion and at least one secular scene or  
17 symbol.

18                   (c) A display relating to a traditional winter  
19 celebration may not include a message that encourages  
20 adherence to a particular religious belief.

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