

# HB659 INTRODUCED



1 HB659  
2 ART4R77-1  
3 By Representatives Chestnut, Daniels, Lawrence  
4 RFD: Education Policy  
5 First Read: 31-Mar-26



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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would establish the Bill of Rights in the Classroom Act.

This bill would require the State Department of Education to publish a standardized version of the Bill of Rights for use by local boards of education.

This bill would require the display of the Bill of Rights in public school classrooms and on the website of each local board of education.

This bill would authorize parents to report noncompliance with this act to the local superintendent of education.

This bill would authorize declaratory and injunctive relief if the local board of education fails to cure the alleged violation.

This bill would also permit courts to award reasonable attorney fees and costs to a prevailing plaintiff.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to public K-12 education; to establish the



## HB659 INTRODUCED

29 Bill of Rights in the Classroom Act; to require the State  
30 Department of Education to publish a standardized version of  
31 the Bill of Rights for use by local boards of education; to  
32 require display of the Bill of Rights in public school  
33 classrooms and on the websites of local boards of education;  
34 to provide a process for the reporting of noncompliant  
35 schools; to provide a remedy for continued noncompliance; and  
36 to permit courts to award reasonable attorney fees and costs.  
37 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

38           Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as  
39 the Bill of Rights in the Classroom Act.

40           Section 2. The Legislature finds and declares the  
41 following:

42           (1) The first 10 amendments to the United States  
43 Constitution, commonly known as the Bill of Rights, enshrine  
44 fundamental protections of individual liberty and limit the  
45 powers of government.

46           (2) Civic literacy is essential to the preservation of  
47 constitutional self government.

48           (3) Displaying the Bill of Rights in public school  
49 classrooms serves an educational purpose and reinforces shared  
50 civic principles.

51           Section 3. For purposes of this act, the following  
52 terms have the following meanings:

53           (1) BILL OF RIGHTS. The first 10 amendments to the  
54 Constitution of the United States as ratified in 1791.

55           (2) CLASSROOM. Any room in which public school students  
56 receive regular instructional services.



## HB659 INTRODUCED

57 (3) DEPARTMENT. The State Department of Education.

58 (4) PARENT. A parent or legal guardian of a student  
59 enrolled in a public school.

60 (5) PUBLIC SCHOOL. Any elementary or secondary school  
61 operated by a public school district or chartered under state  
62 law.

63 Section 4. (a) On or before January 1, 2027, the  
64 department shall publish a standardized version of the Bill of  
65 Rights for use by local boards of education, which shall  
66 include the full and accurate text of the Bill of Rights.

67 (b) The text shall consist solely of the official  
68 language of the Bill of Rights without additional commentary,  
69 interpretation, or partisan material.

70 (c) The department shall make the standardized text  
71 available in printable electronic format at no cost to local  
72 boards of education.

73 Section 5. Before the 2027-2028 school year, each local  
74 board of education shall post the text of the standardized  
75 version of the Bill of Rights, as published by the department  
76 pursuant to Section 4, in a prominent location on its official  
77 website.

78 Section 6. (a) Beginning with the 2027-2028 school  
79 year, each local board of education shall display the  
80 standardized version of the Bill of Rights, pursuant to  
81 Section 4, on a poster or framed document in all public school  
82 classrooms.

83 (b) The poster or framed document required by  
84 subsection (a) shall:



## HB659 INTRODUCED

85           (1) Consist solely of the text of the standardized  
86 version of the Bill of Rights, as published by the department  
87 pursuant to Section 4;

88           (2) Be of sufficient size and clarity to be readable by  
89 students in the classroom; and

90           (3) Be conspicuously displayed in each classroom.

91           Section 7. (a) A parent may provide written notice to  
92 the local superintendent of education alleging noncompliance  
93 with this act.

94           (b) If the local board of education fails to cure the  
95 alleged violation within 30 days after receipt of notice, the  
96 parent may bring an action for declaratory and injunctive  
97 relief in a court of competent jurisdiction.

98           (c) A prevailing plaintiff may be awarded reasonable  
99 attorney fees and costs.

100           Section 8. This act shall become effective on October  
101 1, 2026.