

Regular Session, 1997

HOUSE BILL NO. 658

BY REPRESENTATIVE PERKINS AND SENATOR SHORT

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 17:2117, relative to public elementary and secondary schools; to provide that no public elementary or secondary school governing authority, superintendent, administrator, or principal shall prohibit any teacher from reading and posting certain writings, documents, and records; to prohibit certain content-based censorship; to provide for notice of such to local school systems and employees; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:2117 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§2117. Reading and posting of certain writings, documents, and records; prohibition; limitations; dissemination to local school systems

A. No public elementary or secondary school governing authority, superintendent of schools, or school system administrator, nor any public elementary or secondary school principal or administrator shall prohibit any teacher in a public school system of this state from reading and posting in a public school building or classroom or at a school-sponsored event any excerpts or portions of the following:

- (1) The preamble to the Constitution of the state of Louisiana.
- (2) The Declaration of Independence.
- (3) The United States Constitution.
- (4) The Mayflower Compact.
- (5) The national motto.
- (6) The national anthem.
- (7) The pledge of allegiance.
- (8) The writings, speeches, documents, and proclamations of the founding fathers and presidents of the United States.
- (9) Organic documents from the Pre-Colonial, Colonial, Revolutionary, Federalist, and Post-Federalist eras.
- (10) United States Supreme Court decisions.
- (11) Acts of the United States Congress.

B. No public elementary or secondary school governing authority, superintendent of schools, or school system administrator, nor any public elementary or secondary school principal, administrator, or teacher, in the course and scope of their duties in such capacity, shall censor or suppress in any way any writing, document, record, or other content of any material listed in Subsection A of this Section or any portion thereof based upon religious or other reference or content in any such material.

C. By not later than the start of the 1997-1998 school term, the state superintendent of elementary and secondary education shall notify all public school system superintendents of the provisions of this Section. Each superintendent shall then disseminate to all employees within his school system a copy of the provisions of this Section.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills

to become law without signature by the governor, as provided in Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____