

S.B. 268
Religious Curriculum in Schools

Representative **Matt MacPherson** proposes the following amendments:

1. *Line 108 through 121:*

108 Section **53G-10-202**. is amended to read:

109 **53G-10-202** Maintaining constitutional freedom in the public schools.

110 {~~(1)~~ (a) An LEA may not provide religious instruction.}

111 {~~(b) In accordance with Subsection (1)(a), an LEA may teach about religion and promote~~

112 {religious liberty and respect for the religious views, or lack thereof, of all, including:}

113 {(i) philosophical questions concerning religion;}

114 {(ii) the history of religion;}

115 {(iii) comparative religion;}

116 {(iv) religious texts as literature; and}

117 {(v) the fundamental role of religion in the history of the United States and}

117a {other countries.}

118 [~~(1)~~] {(2)} (1) Except as provided in this section and in Section 53G-10-206, any instructional
119 activity, performance, or display which includes examination of or presentations about
120 religion, political or religious thought or expression, or the influence thereof on music,
121 art, literature, law, politics, history, or any other element of the curriculum, including the

2. *Line 123 through 140:*

123 objectives included within the context of a course or activity and conducted in
124 accordance with applicable rules or policies of the state and LEA governing boards, may
125 be undertaken in the public schools.

126 [~~(2)~~] {(3)} (2) No aspect of cultural heritage, political theory, moral theory, or societal value
shall

127 be included within or excluded from public school curricula for the primary reason that
128 it affirms, ignores, or denies religious belief, religious doctrine, a religious sect, or the
129 existence of a spiritual realm or supreme being.

130 [~~(3)~~] {(4)} (3) [~~Public schools~~] A public school may not sponsor or deny the practice of prayer
or

131 religious devotionals.

132 [~~(4)~~] {(5)} (4) [~~School officials and employees may not, regardless of a school, LEA, or state~~
133 ~~board rule or policy,~~] Notwithstanding any policy or state board rule, a school official or

134 employee may not use the official's or employee's position to endorse, promote, or
135 disparage a particular religious, denominational, sectarian, agnostic, or atheistic belief or
136 viewpoint.

137 ~~{(6)}~~ (5) An LEA shall ensure that:

138 (a) a student may express the student's beliefs about religion in homework, artwork, and
139 other written or oral assignments free from discrimination based on the religious
140 perspective of the student's submissions;