

TEN COMMANDMENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Michael J. Petersen

Senate Sponsor: Daniel McCay

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill requires public schools to display a poster or framed copy of "The Ten Commandments."

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ requires public schools to:
 - display a poster or framed copy of "The Ten Commandments"; and
 - accept and display a donation of "The Ten Commandments" if a copy is not already on display.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

53G-7-211.5, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **53G-7-211.5** is enacted to read:

53G-7-211.5. Display of The Ten Commandments.



28 (1) Each LEA and each school within each LEA shall:
29 (a) display a poster or framed copy of The Ten Commandments, in accordance with
30 Subsection (1)(b), containing only the following language:
31 "The Ten Commandments:
32 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
33 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.
34 Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
35 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
36 Honour thy father and thy mother.
37 Thou shalt not kill.
38 Thou shalt not commit adultery.
39 Thou shalt not steal.
40 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.
41 Thou shalt not covet."
42 (b) ensure that the poster or framed copy described in Subsection (1)(a):
43 (i) is at least 16 inches wide and 20 inches tall;
44 (ii) does not contain any additional content or language; and
45 (iii) is durable; and
46 (c) display the poster or framed copy described in Subsection (1)(a) in a prominent
47 location in each building of the LEA or school.
48 (2) A school within the public education system that does not display The Ten
49 Commandments shall:
50 (a) accept any offer of a privately donated poster or framed copy of The Ten
51 Commandments that meets the requirements described in Subsection (1); and
52 (b) display the donation in accordance with Subsection (1).
53 Section 2. **Effective date.**
54 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2024.