

# House Bill 2947

Sponsored by Representative MAURER

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Directs school districts to provide instruction so that students have opportunity to read and study founding documents of United States. Directs school districts to permit use of any document relating to history, heritage or foundation of United States or State of Oregon.

Allows student to voluntarily choose to study religious topic if other students are provided opportunity to choose topic.

Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2007.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to education; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) A school district shall provide instruction in each grade to ensure that**  
5 **all students are encouraged and have the opportunity to read and study the founding docu-**  
6 **ments of the United States that are pertinent to understanding the principles, character and**  
7 **world view of the founders of the United States. These documents may include documents**  
8 **that contributed to the foundation or maintenance of our representative republican form of**  
9 **limited government, the Bill of Rights, our free-market economic system and patriotism.**

10 **(2) A school district shall permit a principal or teacher to use any document that relates**  
11 **to the history, heritage or foundation of the United States or the State of Oregon. The docu-**  
12 **ments permitted by this subsection may include but are not limited to:**

- 13 **(a) The Mayflower Compact;**  
14 **(b) The Declaration of Independence;**  
15 **(c) The United States Constitution;**  
16 **(d) The Oregon Constitution;**  
17 **(e) The Northwest Ordinance of 1787;**  
18 **(f) The Federalist Papers;**  
19 **(g) The Pledge of Allegiance;**  
20 **(h) The national anthem;**  
21 **(i) George Washington's Farewell Address;**  
22 **(j) Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address;**  
23 **(k) The Acts and published records of Congress; and**  
24 **(L) The United States Supreme Court decisions and records.**

25 **(3) A school district may not limit the use of a document described in subsection (1) or**  
26 **(2) of this section based on religious references in the document if the document is being**  
27 **used for educational purposes in a public school or at a public school event and is not being**  
28 **used to establish a religion.**

29 **(4) A student may voluntarily choose to read, write, share, report or otherwise study a**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **topic that is religious in nature provided other students are provided with the same oppor-**  
2 **tunity to freely choose a topic.**

3 **SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2007 Act first applies to the 2007-2008 school year.**

4 **SECTION 3. This 2007 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**  
5 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2007 Act takes effect**  
6 **July 1, 2007.**

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