



07 MAY -4 PM 6:37  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FLOOR AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

BY: Chisum

1 Amend C.S.H.B. No. 1287 by striking all below the enacting  
2 clause and substituting the following:

3 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is  
4 amended by adding Section 28.011 to read as follows:

5 Sec. 28.011. ELECTIVE COURSES ON THE BIBLE'S HEBREW  
6 SCRIPTURES (OLD TESTAMENT) AND NEW TESTAMENT AND THEIR IMPACT ON  
7 THE HISTORY AND LITERATURE OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION. (a) A school  
8 district shall offer to students in grade nine or above:

9 (1) an elective course on the Hebrew Scriptures (Old  
10 Testament) and its impact and an elective course on the New  
11 Testament and its impact; or

12 (2) an elective course that combines the courses  
13 described by Subdivision (1).

14 (b) The purpose of a course under this section is to:

15 (1) teach students knowledge of biblical content,  
16 characters, poetry, and narratives that are prerequisites to  
17 understanding contemporary society and culture, including  
18 literature, art, music, mores, oratory, and public policy; and

19 (2) familiarize students with, as applicable:

20 (A) the contents of the Hebrew Scriptures or New  
21 Testament;

22 (B) the history of the Hebrew Scriptures or New  
23 Testament;

24 (C) the literary style and structure of the Hebrew  
25 Scriptures or New Testament; and

26 (D) the influence of the Hebrew Scriptures or New

1 Testament on law, history, government, literature, art, music,  
2 customs, morals, values, and culture.

3 (c) Notwithstanding Sections 28.002(c) and 31.022,  
4 respectively, for a course under this section, the State Board of  
5 Education or the agency may not:

6 (1) identify the essential knowledge and skills; or

7 (2) adopt textbooks under Chapter 31.

8 (d) The book or collection of books commonly known as the  
9 Hebrew Scriptures shall be used as the primary source textbook for  
10 a course on the Hebrew Scriptures. The book or collection of books  
11 commonly known as the New Testament shall be used as the primary  
12 source textbook for a course on the New Testament. A school  
13 district may select a supporting textbook or curriculum materials  
14 to accompany the primary source textbooks, and students may be  
15 assigned a range of reading materials for the courses, including  
16 selections from secular historical and cultural works and  
17 selections from religious and cultural traditions other than the  
18 Jewish and Christian traditions.

19 (e) A student may not be required to use a specific  
20 translation as the sole text of the Hebrew Scriptures or New  
21 Testament and may use as the basic textbook a different translation  
22 of the Hebrew Scriptures or New Testament from that chosen by the  
23 board of trustees of the student's school district or the student's  
24 teacher.

25 (f) A course offered under this section must be taught in an  
26 objective and nondevotional manner that does not attempt to  
27 indoctrinate students in any religion or nonreligious system of  
28 belief. Nothing in a course offered under this section is intended  
29 to violate any provision of the United States Constitution, federal

1 law, or the Texas Constitution.

2 (g) A teacher of a course offered under this section is  
3 entitled to training in connection with the chosen curriculum at a  
4 level equal to that provided to teachers of other elective courses.

5 (h) For the purpose of a student earning credit for high  
6 school graduation, a school district shall grant one-half academic  
7 elective credit for satisfactory completion of a course on the  
8 Hebrew Scriptures, one-half academic elective credit for  
9 satisfactory completion of a course on the New Testament, and one-  
10 half academic elective credit for satisfactory completion of a  
11 combined course on both the Hebrew Scriptures and the New  
12 Testament. This subsection applies only to a course that is taught  
13 in strict compliance with this section.

14 (i) If, for a particular semester, fewer than 15 students at  
15 a school district campus register to enroll in a course required by  
16 this section, the district is not required to offer the course at  
17 that campus for that semester.

18 (j) This section does not prohibit the board of trustees of a  
19 school district from offering an elective course based on the books  
20 of a religion or society other than one with Jewish or Christian  
21 traditions. In determining whether to offer such a course, the  
22 board may consider various factors, including student and parent  
23 demand for such a course and the impact such books have had on  
24 history and culture.

25 SECTION 2. Section 28.002(a), Education Code, is amended to  
26 read as follows:

27 (a) Each school district that offers kindergarten through  
28 grade 12 shall offer, as a required curriculum:

29 (1) a foundation curriculum that includes:

- 1 (A) English language arts;
- 2 (B) mathematics;
- 3 (C) science; and
- 4 (D) social studies, consisting of Texas, United
- 5 States, and world history, government, and geography; and
- 6 (2) an enrichment curriculum that includes:
- 7 (A) to the extent possible, languages other than
- 8 English;
- 9 (B) health, with emphasis on the importance of
- 10 proper nutrition and exercise;
- 11 (C) physical education;
- 12 (D) fine arts;
- 13 (E) economics, with emphasis on the free enterprise
- 14 system and its benefits;
- 15 (F) career and technology education; ~~and~~
- 16 (G) technology applications; and
- 17 (H) the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and New
- 18 Testament and their impact on the history and literature of western
- 19 civilization as provided by Section 28.011.

20 SECTION 3. A school district shall offer a course on the

21 Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and its impact and a course on

22 the New Testament and its impact, or a combined course in those

23 subjects, as required by Section 28.011, Education Code, as added

24 by this Act, beginning with the 2007-2008 school year.

25 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a

26 vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

28 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

29 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.